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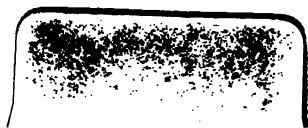
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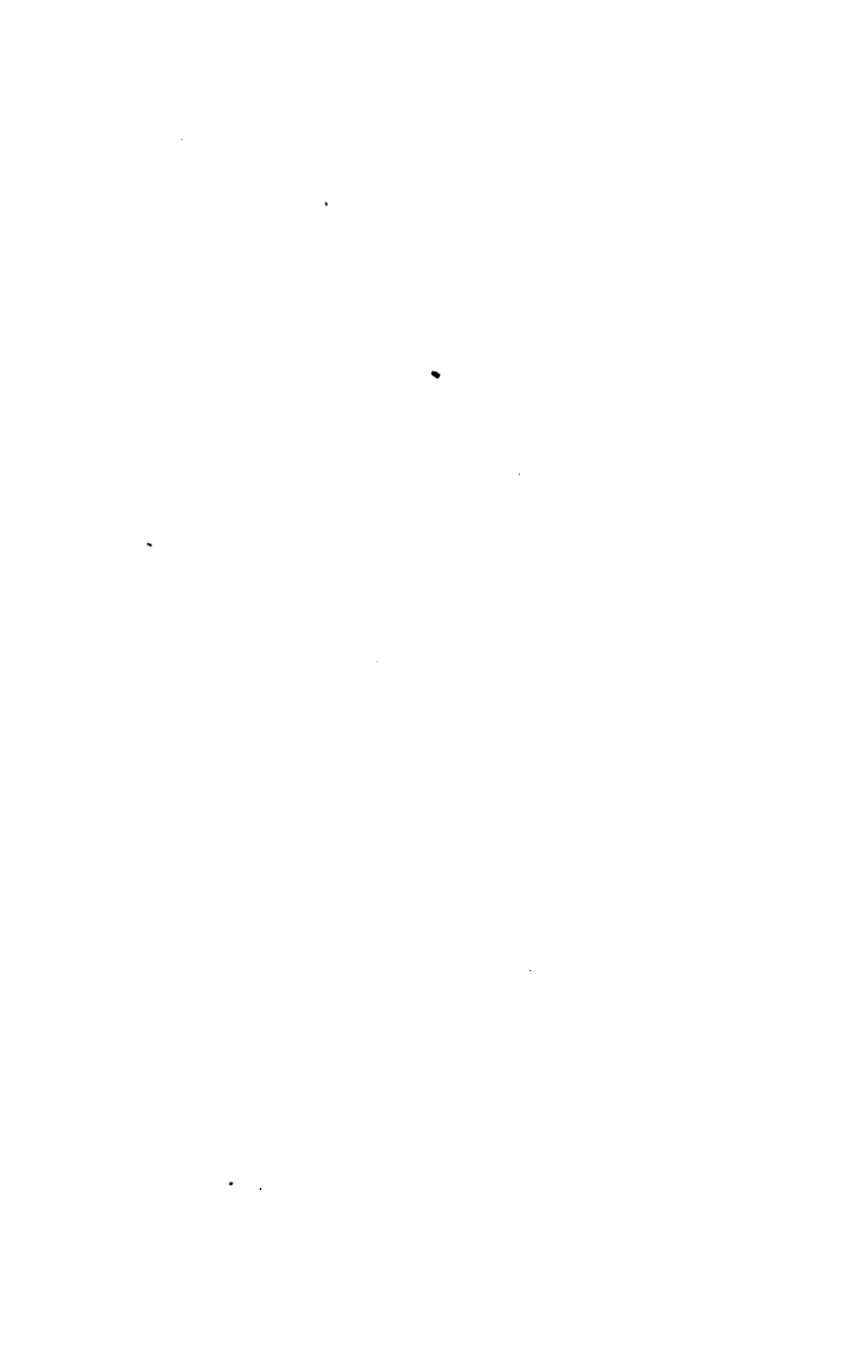
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JOHN, GUY'S
CLASS-BOOK

3987. f. 383







THE
CLASS BOOK,

FOR THE USE OF

Schools and Private Families.

BY JOHN GUY,

AUTHOR OF

*"Familiar Questions on Familiar Things," "Familiar Lessons on
Astronomy," "Orthographical Exercises, on an improved plan,"
Etc. Etc.*

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P R E F A C E.

In compliance with the wishes of some valued Friends, the Author has been induced to compile the CLASS BOOK, and, in doing this, he has endeavoured, not only to combine moral instruction with useful information, but to furnish a sufficient variety of styles to assist in forming the voice, and to make the gradations, in the lessons, suitable to the supposed progress of the pupils.

Teachers, who may favour the Author with a trial of the work, will meet with several pieces with which they are familiar, but they must recollect that they will be entirely new to those placed under their care, and, perhaps, he may be permitted to add, that a great part of what has thus been selected, is from the works of eminent authors, and what he considers worthy of being handed down from generation to generation.

The Author hopes that the Class Book, taken as a whole, is not only calculated to inform the head, but also to improve the heart, and should it be found conducive to these ends, one of the leading objects of his labours will be attained.

LONDON, 1858.



JOHN GUYS CLASS BOOK.

LESSON I.

SELECT SENTENCES.

We cannot be good, as God is good, to all persons everywhere; but we can rejoice that everywhere there is a God to do them good.

All our conduct towards men should be guided by this precept, "Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you."

To be diligent at his studies, to be respectful to his teacher, to be kind to his schoolfellows, are the duties of a school boy.

To be idle at his books, to be disrespectful to his teacher, to seek occasion to quarrel with his playfellows, are bad signs in a scholar.

I fear to incur the anger of the Almighty; I fear to lose my good character among men; and I fear the stings of my own conscience.

Happiness is confined to no station in life; a poor man may be happy, a rich one may be miserable.

It takes a long time to establish a good character, yet we may lose it in less than a day; a single dishonourable action will undo what it has taken years to accomplish.

Some men, by improvident habits, make to themselves a rugged passage through life, while it might be smooth and comfortable.

I have seen a thoughtless boy toss a piece of orange peel on the foot pavement; this is very wrong, he

little considers at the time, that that piece of peel may be the cause of a broken limb, or even of death.

Children should love those who teach them, as they love the sciences which they learn of them; and to look upon them as fathers, from whom they derive not the life of the body, but that instruction, which is, in a manner, the life of the soul.

He, whose windows are made of glass, should never throw stones; in other words, before he begins to point out the failings of his neighbour, he ought to be well convinced that he has none of his own.

When we do any thing which our conscience disapproves, we become the destroyers of our own peace.

Truth is always consistent with itself, and needs nothing to help it out; it is always near at hand, and sits upon our lips, and is ready to drop out before we are aware; whereas, a lie is troublesome, and sets a man's invention on the rack, and one untruth needs a great many more to make it good.

We all complain of the shortness of time, and yet we have much more than we know what to do with. Our lives are often spent in doing nothing at all, or in doing nothing to the purpose, or in doing nothing that we ought to do. We are always complaining that our days are few, and acting as though there would be no end of them.

No other disposition, or turn of mind, so unfits a man for all the duties of life, as indolence. An idle man is a mere blank in creation, he seems made for no end, and lives for no purpose.

Whatever we see, reminds us of the lapse of time. The day and night succeed each other; the rotation of the seasons varies the year; the sun rises, attains the me-rid'-i-an, declines, and sets; and the moon, every *night, changes its form.*

LESSON II.

THE ORIGINAL BRITONS.—THE ROMAN INVASION.

Great Britain, it is supposed, was first colonized by the Celts, a people who, at that time, occupied Gaul, now called France, but they originally came from A'sia, and, in the course of time, spread themselves over the southern and western parts of Europe.

At what time this took place cannot be ascertained, but it is known that the Phœ-ni"-ci-ans traded with the inhabitants of Cornwall for tin, many centuries before the Christian era.

The authentic history of England commences from the invasion of the Romans, which took place fifty-five years before the birth of Christ; previously to that time, no events were committed to writing, and all depended on tradition, that is, on verbal accounts handed down from one generation to another.

At the time of the invasion, the inhabitants of the south-eastern coast had made some progress in agriculture, producing considerable quantities of corn, and having large herds of cattle, but in the interior, they were in a much more degraded state, living in caves, and rudely built cottages, and in the summer season, leading a wandering life, seeking pasturage for their cattle.

Not cultivating the ground, their entire dependance for support was on their domestic cattle, on hunting and fishing, and on the herbs and fruits natural to the country; with regard to clo'-thing, in the summer season, they went nearly naked, staining their bodies with different colours; and in the winter, they clothed themselves with the skins of the different animals taken *in the chase*.

They were divided into tribes, each tribe being under a chief; in their religion they were Pagans, or worshippers of idols, and some of their religious rites were attended with great cruelty, frequently sacrificing human beings as offerings to their gods; their priests, the Druids, led a most abstemious life, and possessed great power over them.

When in this state, the Romans, a warlike people of Italy, invaded the country, the army being commanded by the celebrated Ju'lius Cæ'sar; he was strongly opposed by the natives, but discipline prevailed, and they were obliged to promise submission to the Roman power.

Ju'lius Cæ'sar having withdrawn his army, the natives resumed their courage, and threw off the Roman yoke, but the general returning the following year, they thought it prudent to sue for peace, and to agree to pay a yearly tribute to the Romans.

Ju'lius Cæ'sar having again withdrawn his troops, the Britons remained unmolested until the year of our Lord 43, when the Romans again invaded the country, and met with the most vigorous resistance, but native courage could not stand against Roman discipline, and the Britons always came off the worst.

The whole of the country was not finally subdued until about thirty years afterwards, when A-gric'o-la, a Roman general, distinguished for his courage and humanity, succeeded to the command of the army, and he won so much on the affections of the natives, that they adopted the Roman dress, and became reconciled to the sway of their conquerors.

The invasion of the Romans was ultimately of great advantage to the country, for the natives became well acquainted with agriculture, and were taught many useful arts, and, upon the whole, they might, in some degree, be called a civilized people.

LESSON III.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

The ear, the organ of hearing, is formed of a gristly substance, and admirably contrived for the purpose of collecting sound; the sounds collected strike the tympanum, or drum of the ear, which is closely connected with the brain by means of nerves; thus the brain, the seat of our senses, is informed of all the sounds the ear can collect.

Such is the intensity of the cold, in the depth of winter, in the northern parts of Russia, that boiling water thrown up into the air, freezes before it reaches the ground.

Although mercury, or quicksilver, is always in a fluid state in this country, yet in very cold climates it will congeal or freeze till it becomes a solid body.

A French physician says that pain is mitigated by giving vent to our feelings, and that a person who groans freely, when in great pain, suffers less than one who endeavours to bear it in silence.

The toes of a waterfowl are united with a membrane or web, which enables it to strike the water the same as a fish strikes it, with its fins and tail.

Waterfowls are furnished with a kind of oil with which they anoint their feathers, and this makes the water run off, the same as it does from a well varnished carriage.

The fox hides himself in a cover, or hole in the ground, during the day, and sallies out in the night for the purpose of plunder.

In this country, ardent spirits are supposed to kill more persons than any single disorder, to which the human family is subject.

In Lapland, Norway, and other northern countries, the *Au-ro'-ra Bo-re-a'-lis*, or northern lights, afford considerable light to the inhabitants during their long and dreary nights in winter.

In country situations a draw well frequently supplies the place of a pump, and water is drawn up from it by means of a rope, and a deep kind of pail, called a bucket.

In this favoured country, no person can be legally punished until he be pronounced guilty of a crime, by a jury, consisting of twelve of his peers, or equals.

The plum in-di"-ge-nous, or natural to this country, is the sloe; the fine plums we now produce are the effects of engrafting slips, reared from the stones of foreign fruits, into native stocks, that is, sloe thorns.

We have a right and a wrong way placed before us, and we have our choice which we will take; the one leads to happiness, the other to certain misery.

The water of the Baltic Sea contains very little salt, and this makes it more liable to freeze, than that of other seas, in the same latitude.

Great events often proceed from simple causes; thus, acorns planted in the ground, vegetate, shoot up, and become stately oaks; these, when cut down, and formed into ships, are the wooden walls of Old England.

In the sixteenth century, many persons were burnt at the stake, for not conforming to the religious opinions of those in power—in the present day, we are at liberty to worship our Creator in that way which our conscience tells us is right, none daring to make us afraid.

When we lie down on our beds, how sweet it is to reflect that we have conscientiously endeavoured to perform the various duties of the day.

LESSON IV.

THE DOG.

There is no animal which so well deserves to be called the friend of man as the dog; he seems to be able to understand our wishes, to suit himself to our habits, to obey our commands, to delight in our society, and even to take pleasure in being our servant.

The sagacity of the dog is wonderful; the naturalist Ray mentions a dog in Rome, that knew all the streets and houses to which he had to guide his poor blind master, and when money was thrown from a window, he would pick it up, and put it into his master's hat, and if bread were cast down, he would not eat it, unless it was given from the hand of the poor beggar.

A French writer mentions a dog which would carry a letter tied to his collar, from his master to a friend; after it was taken from his neck, he would go into the kitchen and get some food, and when satisfied, he would go to the parlour window, and bark occasionally, until an answer was fastened on him, and he then returned home.

In Si-be'-ri-a, when the summer comes, the dogs used in drawing sledges, are turned away to shift for themselves; but as soon as winter is near, they come back of their own accord, and offer themselves to their old masters, although they have experienced nothing from them, but hard work and scanty fare.

The attachment of the dog to man is of great service, especially in savage countries, where his assistance against other beasts is invaluable; his fidelity to his trust, may be seen among us daily, in the instance of carriers' dogs, which defend the property left un-

their care, with a firmness over which nothing can prevail.

The love which the dog bears to man, is shown in the readiness with which he plunges into the water, to save a drowning person. There was, some time ago, a Newfoundland dog at Paris, which was so anxious to perform this task, that his zeal became troublesome, for whenever he saw any one bathing in the river Seine, he at once leaped in, and dragged out the unwilling swimmer.

One would imagine that dogs were able to count the days of the week, for there was one that always used to leave his home on Saturday night, and not return until Monday, to avoid being chained up on Sunday; a dog will also find his way on a road to which he is a total stranger, for one was sent from London to Scotland by sea, and he soon after escaped, and made his way back to London by land.

Such are a few of the habits and qualities of this noble animal, which sets an example of faithfulness and gratitude that may be profitable even to man, and he must indeed have a hard heart that can ill use a companion which never thinks of self, is never weary in gratifying his master's wishes, and seeks no reward beyond his praise.

LESSON V.

PHILIP AND ARTHUR.

"Is not Philip very stupid," said little Arthur Smith to his father, who had been just talking to him, "only ink, he is fifteen years old, and he can neither read nor write."

"Very likely he cannot," answered the father; "his parents are poor people, and they could not afford to send him to school, for as soon as he was old enough he was sent, first to watch the pigs, then the sheep, and at last to take care of the cows, that he might earn something to help his father and mother.

"Now he is groom in the stable, and makes himself useful in a variety of ways; he also not only earns his own food and clothes, but some money besides, which, I have reason to believe, he regularly sends to his parents in the country.

"Ignorant in many things, Philip may very possibly be, and I dare say he will never become a great scholar, but stupid he certainly is not, my son, those only are stupid who do not learn anything well, but Philip understands his business perfectly, and is a very good servant."

Arthur did not dispute this, but he still thought that Philip was stupid to be fifteen years of age, and not to know how to read and write, while he himself was only eleven, and he could not only do these things well, but he could cipher, and had a knowledge of history, geography, and French.

Some time after this, Philip had to thresh out some wheat, he therefore opened the sheaves, and spread them smoothly on the barn floor, and took the flail, and began to beat out the grain from the straw, and never once hit himself, he knew so well how to handle it.

Arthur thought this was easy enough, and seizing the flail, he also tried to thresh, but the first thing he did, was to give himself a severe blow on the head with the swinging flail.

Another time Arthur saw Philip ploughing in the field; that, he thought, was easily done, and he could do it he knew, and he persuaded Philip to let him take *his place and try.*

Soon the boy who rode the horse called out "no, no, my little man, that will not do! Give it up to Philip who understands it better," and Arthur walked away much ashamed.

At another time, Philip was sifting some meal through a large sieve; Arthur thought that that was very easy to do, but on taking hold of the sieve, he held it so awkwardly, that he shook the fine flour over with the bran, and Philip said, laughing, "my little man you do not understand that either."

Then Arthur began to think that Philip was not so stupid after all, for he knew how to do a great many useful things that he himself knew nothing about.

From the German.

LESSON VI.

ASTRONOMY.

The term Astronomy is derived from two Greek words, *Aster*, a star, and *Nomos*, a law, therefore it may be defined as, "The science which gives us a knowledge of the heavenly bodies, namely, the sun, the moon, the stars, and the comets."

Perhaps, there is no subject more interesting to the enquiring mind than this science, the motions of the heavenly bodies have attracted the attention of man, from the earliest ages of the world, and the ancient philosophers, with the view of reducing this study to a system, endeavoured to arrange the stars into clusters, or fanciful groups, resembling beasts, fishes, and other objects.

These groups they called Constellations, thus, the constellation, or sign, known as "the Lion," is a cluster or group of stars, supposed to have some resemblance to that animal.

The ancients had very mistaken notions with regard to the earth, and the heavenly bodies; they believed that the former was an immense plain, lying at rest in the centre, or middle, of the universe, and that the heavens revolved or moved round it, carrying with them the sun, the moon, and the stars.

These mistaken views prevailed till nearly four hundred years ago, when Co-per'-ni-cus, a distinguished philosopher of Polish Prussia, introduced the theory of the Solar System, which places the sun in the centre, having a number of planets, or globes like the earth, moving round his body, at various distances.

This theory is now found to be correct, and it has been adopted by all the civilized nations of the earth.

The word planet is derived from a Greek word, signifying a wanderer, therefore the planets may be considered wandering stars, because they do not always keep in the same situation, with regard to other stars.

The planets are dark bodies, or worlds, somewhat resembling the earth on which we live, and the reason they appear bright to us, is their reflecting, or throwing back, the light they receive from the sun.

Sometimes, on a fine evening, when in a certain position, we see the windows, nearly opposite the sun, appear almost as bright as the sun himself, that is, the glass throws back his brightness, and this may, in some measure, explain to us the reason why a planet, with a dark body, has the appearance of a bright star.

The planets shine with a mild moon-like light, and they are easily distinguished from the fixed stars, which shine with an intense twinkling lustre.

The principal planets are Mer'cury, Ve'nus, the Earth, Mars, Ju'piter, Sa'turn, Hers'chel, and Nep'tune; a great many other planets have been discovered within these late years, but none of them are visible to the naked eye.

LESSON VII.

THE BEGGAR'S PETITION.—THE WASP AND THE BEE.

THE ROSE.

Pity the sorrows of a poor old man,
Whose trembling limbs have born him to your door,
Whose days are dwindled to the shortest span,
Oh! give relief! and heaven will bless your store.

These tatter'd clothes my poverty bespeak,
These hoary locks proclaim my lengthen'd years,
And many a furrow in my grief-worn cheek,
Has been the channel to a flood of tears.

Yon house, erected on the rising ground,
With tempting aspect drew me from the road;
For plenty there a residence has found,
And grandeur a magnificent abode.

Hard is the fate of the infirm and poor,
Here, as I crav'd a morsel of their bread,
A pamper'd menial drove me from the door,
To seek a shelter in a humbler shed.

Oh! take me to your hospitable dome,
Keen blows the wind, and piercing is the cold,
Short is my passage to the friendly tomb,
For I am poor, and miserably old.

Pity the sorrows of a poor old man,
Whose trembling limbs have born him to your door,
Whose days are dwindled to the shortest span,
Oh! give relief! and heaven will bless your store

A wasp met a bee, that was just buzzing by
And he said, "little cousin, can you tell me, why,
You are lov'd so much better by people than I?"

"My back shines as bright, and as yellow as gold,
And my shape is most elegant, too, to behold;
Yet nobody likes me for that, I am told.—"

"Ah! cousin," the bee said, "'tis all very true,
But if I were one half as much mischief to do,
Indeed they would love me no better than you.

"You have a fine shape, and a delicate wing, [thing
They own you are handsome,—but then there's one
They cannot put up with, and that is—your sting.

"My coat is quite homely and plain, as you see,
Yet nobody ever is angry with me,
Because I'm a harmless and diligent bee."

From this little story, let people beware,
Because, like the wasp, if ill-natur'd they are,
They will never be lov'd, if they're ever so fair.

Taylor.

How fair is the rose! what a beautiful flower!
In summer so fragrant and gay!
But the leaves are beginning to fade in an hour,
And they wither and die in a day.

Yet the rose has one powerful virtue to boast,
Above all the flowers of the field;
When its leaves are all dead, and its fine colour lost,
Still how sweet a perfume it will yield.

So frail is the youth and the beauty of men,
Tho' they bloom, and look gay, like the rose;
For all our fond care to preserve them is vain;
Time kills them as fast as he goes.

Then let's not be proud of our youth, or our beauty,
Since both of them wither and fade;
But gain a good name by performing our duty;
This will scent, like the rose, when we're dead.
Watts.

LESSON VIII.

THE SAXONS.—THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY.

The Romans kept possession of the country until the year 440, when their own empire was invaded in its turn, and they were obliged, in self defence, to recall all their forces from abroad, and the Britons again became their own masters.

Having so long depended on the Romans for protection, the natives had completely lost their war-like spirit, and they became an easy prey to the Scots and Picts, who frequently ravaged the country.

Thus situated, by the advice of one of their chiefs, they invited over the Saxons, a restless, but brave people, who inhabited a part of Germany, to assist them.

The Saxons accepted the invitation, and landed fifteen hundred men, who, assisted by the natives, boldly marched against the Scots and Picts, and completely defeated them, and made them glad to retire within their proper limits.

The Saxons, finding their new country more fertile than the one they had left, determined on remaining, and they invited their countrymen to come over and join them; they came in great numbers, and made Britain their home, and as we are descended from those settlers, we are said to be of Saxon origin.

The Britons did not quietly submit to their new masters, but after some well contested battles, they were obliged to give in, and the Saxons became the rulers over the whole country, when it was divided into seven distinct kingdoms, and called the Saxon Heph-tarchy.*

Those natives that refused to submit to Saxon rule, were obliged to take refuge among the mountains of Wales and Cornwall, where they could not be pursued; it is on this account the Welsh consider themselves the descendants of the ancient Britons.

The Saxons, having subdued their common enemy, the Britons, began to fight with each other, until at last all the seven kingdoms were united under one king, namely, Egbert, who was crowned King of England, at Winchester, in the year 827.

To account for the new name of England, the young reader must be informed, that, when the Saxons first came over, they were accompanied by a great number of Angles, that is natives of Anglen, a part of Germany, but belonging to Denmark; and soon after the country began to be called An-glo-land, which, probably for shortness, was afterwards changed into England.

* Hep'-tar-ke.

A most important event took place in Egbert's reign, namely, the introduction of Christianity by missionaries sent by St. Gregory, who afterwards became the Pope of Rome; it is said when passing through the slave market in Rome, he was struck with the beauty of some children exposed for sale, and he enquired from what country they came.

Being told they were English Pagans, he observed in the Latin language, that "If they were Christians they would be angels;" he then formed the resolution of making an effort to convert the nation to Christianity, and he succeeded, for the missionaries he sent, entered upon their work with great zeal, and the Christian religion triumphed over Paganism.

LESSON IX.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

By heathen mythol'ogy we understand a system of fables, or an account of imaginary beings, whom the heathen nations worshipped as gods, thus, Mars was worshipped as the god of war, and Minerva as the goddess of wisdom.

By the parochial* clergy we mean those that have the cure or care of souls, namely, rectors, vicars, and incumbents, assisted by curates.

The different animals that exist in the world may be classed into five kinds, namely, beasts, birds, fishes, reptiles, and insects.

When one man kills another without intending it, the *crime is called manslaughter*; if he premeditated it, it *would be murder*.

It has been ascertained that much fewer accidents happen on the railway, in proportion to the numbers travelling, than did in the old coaching times.

From the great improvement made in the construction of ships, a steamer will now sail from New York to Liverpool, a distance of three thousand miles in nine days.

The cat, in her domestic state, is a harmless creature, but by nature she is a beast of prey, and when she has the opportunity of seizing a poor mouse her savage nature appears to return.

Farmers sow their seed in the ground, under the hope of its being returned to them, with an abundant increase.

Although the English are not so ingenious a people as the French, yet they possess one quality, perhaps equally valuable, namely perseverance.

In England we produce all the substantial necessities of life; a great part of our luxuries we import from foreign countries.

A yeoman is a person who possesses a small estate and cultivates it; the yeomanry of England were a very numerous body, but now they are fast disappearing.

By eyebrow we mean that hairy arch over the eye; by eyelid is meant the membrane that covers the eye; and by eyelash, the hair on the edge of the eyelid.

Near sighted persons require concave glasses to assist the sight; elderly persons require their glasses ground in the convex form: the outside of a bell is convex, and the inside is concave.

The toad is a harmless but an unsightly reptile; in shape it resembles the frog, but it is not so active, and is much darker in colour.

Yeast is a frothy substance that rises to the surface of *newly made ale*, and is put into paste to make the

bread light or porous, that is, full of little openings somewhat like a sponge.

Hops are the dried flower buds of a beautiful climbing plant called the hop-bine; they are extensively cultivated in Kent, and some other southern counties, and chiefly used in brewing ale and porter, for they not only impart a pleasant bitter to the liquor, but they prevent it from turning sour.

If I turn my face towards the sun at twelve o'clock, I am looking full south, and my back is towards the north, I also shall have the east on my left hand, and the west on my right.

LESSON X.

THE LION.—THE TIGER.

The lion, in appearance, is so majestic and noble, that he has justly been called the king of beasts, his roar when in pursuit of his prey, is so terrible, that all other animals are filled with dismay, and his strength is such, that he can break the back bone of a horse, with a single stroke of his paw.

We read many tales of the magnanimity of the lion, and of the gratitude he has shown for kindness received, and it is also said that he does not take life from wanton cruelty, but merely to satisfy the cravings of hunger, and also that he seldom attacks a small defenceless animal, except when in great want of food.

We also read in the fable of a lion which kindly stepped aside, to avoid crushing a poor mouse, that happened to be in his way, and the mouse always remembered his kindness with gratitude: some time

after the lion had the misfortune to be caught in a net, and with all his strength he could not release himself.

His little friend, the mouse, heard his roar, and hastened to his assistance, and with its sharp teeth soon gnawed the threads of the net, so that the lion was enabled to escape. The moral of the fable is, that in our journey through life, we should, by our conduct, make as many friends as we can, and never intentionally make an enemy—a person, in a very humble station, may have it in his power to do us an act of kindness.

The tiger is neither so large nor so powerful an animal as the lion, but he springs upon his prey much in the same manner, and is almost equally dreaded by other beasts; the tiger abounds in the jungles of some parts of India, and frequently makes man his prey.

In Ben-gal', on an occasion, some ladies and gentlemen, being from home, on a party of pleasure, saw with alarm a tiger in a thicket preparing for its fatal spring, when one of the ladies, with great presence of mind, suddenly opened her parasol in his face, which so alarmed him, that he immediately fled, and the company were enabled to retire to a place of safety.

On another occasion, an officer, looking out of his window, saw a tiger carrying away a calf he had just seized; the mother was fastened to a stake, but when she saw the fate of her little one, she broke away, and pursued the savage beast with the most piteous lamentations, and strange to tell, the tiger was alarmed, and dropping his prey, he made his way into the jungle.

The cow stopped abruptly over the calf, stirred it with her foot, licked it with the fondest affection, went round it, and round it, but she in vain endeavoured to make her little one rise again, as the grasp of the tiger *had killed it*.

Another instance is on record, the result of which was very tragical. A party of Englishmen in the East Indies went to a small island with the view of shooting deer. They made a large fire, as a defence whilst they sat down to partake of refreshment.

At that moment an immense tiger rushed into the circle, and seized Mr. Munro, the son of Sir H. Munro, and rushed again into the jungle, dragging him through the thickest bushes, everything giving way to his great strength.

Several of the party fired on the tiger, and in a few moments afterwards, the young officer returned, bathed in his own blood. Medical assistance was in vain; he had been deeply wounded by the teeth and claws of the animal, and he expired in twenty-four hours.

LESSON XI.

THE WEATHER.—THE UNTIDY GIRL.

"Oh! how I do wish the sky was always bright, and the flowers always in bloom," said Mary Jones, when the rain was falling in torrents. It proved to be the will of Heaven that her wish should be granted, for the summer brought with it a long continued drought.

A stifling heat was felt in the air; not a cloud was to be seen in the clear blue sky; in consequence of the extreme dry weather; the farmers looked forward to a scanty harvest, and the flowers in Mary's little garden began to droop and wither.

She now began to complain of the want of rain, when her mother put her in mind of the foolish wish she had *heard her express* some weeks before; "you now see," *said she*, "that rain is quite as needful as sunshine, and

if the weather were always fine, the earth would not yield its produce for the use of man.

Our great Creator adapts the changes of the seasons to the service of his creatures; and in like manner, the troubles and sorrows of this life are, perhaps, more useful than its pleasures, in fitting them for the world to come."

The chamber, in which her daughter Eliza slept, was a pleasant room in Mrs. Middleton's house, and very neatly furnished, but it was always in a state of unseemly disorder.

One fine summer evening Eliza was preparing for a walk, when one of her young friends entered with a plate of fine black cherries, and offered them for her acceptance.

The bed, tables, and chairs, were, as usual covered with frocks, bonnets, shawls, and other articles of dress, so that no place could be found for the cherries.

Eliza at once set the plate down upon a large easy chair, on the back of which had been thrown a piece of beautiful figured silk, which her mother had just given her; and, without another thought, she joined the party that was waiting for her.

When they returned home, it was nearly dark, and Eliza went up stairs to put off her bonnet and shawl, which, as usual, she threw heedlessly down in any place that presented itself, and feeling fatigued with the walk she had taken, she sat down on the easy chair, totally forgetful of the cherries she had left upon it.

The screams, which she could not suppress, brought her mother into the room, and, as she held up the candle in her hand, a strange figure stood before her.

The juice of the cherries had not only stained her frock, but the beautiful new silk, which was intended

to be made into a mantle; everything was completely spoiled, and the untidy girl received a severe lecture from her mamma, who was by no means sorry that the accident had happened.

Mrs. Middleton concluded by telling her that she must do without her new mantle, and that no new frock should be bought, to replace the one that was stained, until she had given proofs of an earnest wish to cure herself of her untidy habits.

Eliza shed tears of sorrow and shame, and faithfully kept the promise which she gave to her mother, who presented her, after an interval of some weeks, with a silk frock, and a new mantle, more elegant than those she had spoiled.

"Be assured, my dear girl," she said, when she gave them to her, "that untidy habits are not only disgraceful in themselves, but they frequently lead to misery and ruin."—*From the German.*

LESSON XII.

THE SUN.

The Sun, the great luminary of the day, and the most splendid object visible to human eyes, is an immense globe, more than a million times the size of ours, and the great dispenser of light and heat to the earth, and all the other planets.

The sun was formerly supposed to be a globe of fire, but modern astron'omers have ascertained that he is a dark body like the earth, and that he is surrounded by a shining atmosphere, of intense brilliancy, and that it is this atmosphere which throws its light and heat to all the planetary bodies.

This shining atmosphere is supposed to be between two and three thousand miles in depth, and the dark spots frequently seen on the sun, are thought to be cavities, or openings in the atmosphere, through which the dark mass of the sun's body is distinctly seen.

The sun is also supposed to have an inner atmosphere, of inferior brightness, which screens his surface from the powerful rays of the outer one.

That the sun is inhabited is a favourite doctrine with some distinguished philosophers, and as all creation seems to teem with life, we may reasonably suppose that so large and beautiful a body as the sun, would not remain without inhabitants.

To those who object to this supposition, we may say, that the Great Power that called the sun into existence, could also create beings suitable to inhabit it.

The distance of the sun from the earth is ninety-five millions of miles, and his circumference is about three millions.

Now, if we could travel round the sun, and move at the rate of one hundred miles a day, we should be more than eighty years in accomplishing our journey; such is his amazing extent!

So far as human observation can extend, it has been ascertained that the sun has no motion but that of turning round upon his axis, once in about twenty-five days, and this is done by observing the spots on his surface.

Thus, when any particular spot disappears on one edge, and after a certain number of days, reappears on the other edge, and arrives at the very same place in twenty-five days, we have a proof that the sun turns once round in that time.

We may easily understand the nature of the sun's turning round on his axis, if we pass a piece of wi

through the middle of an orange, and make the orange turn round upon it, the wire will be the axis of the orange; but in this case the axis is real, while in that of the sun it is only imaginary.

That the sun is essential to our existence no one can doubt; if we were deprived of the cheering influence of his rays, we could not continue in being, for we could have no wind, no clouds, no rain, no warmth, no vegetation, and all animals would die.

LESSON XIII.

THE MOUSE'S* PETITION.—THE DROWNING FLY.—

GRATITUDE TO GOD.

Oh! hear a pensive prisoner's prayer,
For liberty that sighs;
And never let thy heart be shut
Against a wretch's cries.

For here forlorn and sad I sit
Within this wiry grate;
And tremble at the approaching morn
Which brings impending fate.

If e'er thy breast with freedom glow'd,
And spurn'd a tyrant's chain,
Let not thy strong, oppressive force
A free-born mouse detain.

Oh! do not stain with guiltless blood,
Thy hospitable hearth;
Nor triumph that thy wiles betray'd
A prize so little worth!

* Caught in a wire trap.

The scattered gleanings of a feast,
My frugal meals supply;
But, if thy unrelenting heart
That slender boon deny,—

The cheerful light, the vital air,
Are blessings widely given;
Let nature's commoners enjoy
The common gifts of heav'n.

The well-taught philosophic mind,
To all compassion gives,
Casts round the world an equal eye,
And feels for all that lives.

Barbauld.

In yonder vase behold a drowning fly!
Its little feet how vainly does it ply!
Its cries I understand not, yet it cries,
And tender hearts can feel its agonies.
Poor, helpless victim! and will no one save,
Will no one snatch thee from the threat'ning grave?
Is there no friendly hand, or helper nigh?
And must thou little struggler, must thou die?
Thou shalt not, while this hand can set thee free,
Thou shalt not die—this hand shall rescue thee;
My finger's tip shall prove a friendly shore;—
There, trembler! all thy dangers now are o'er;
Wipe thy wet wings, and banish all thy fear;
Go, join thy buzzing brothers in the air.
Away it flies—resumes its harmless play,
And lightly gambols in the golden ray.

Smile not, spectators, at this humble deed—
For you, perhaps, a nobler task's decreed;

A young and sinking family to save,
To raise the infant from destruction's wave;
To you for help the victims lift their eyes—
Oh! hear, for pity's sake, their plaintive cries!
Ere long, unless some guardian interpose
O'er their devoted heads the flood may close.

Aihin.

How cheerful along the gay mead,
The daisy and cowslip appear!
The flocks, as they carelessly feed
Rejoice in the spring of the year,
The myrtles that deck the gay bowers,
The herbage that springs from the sod,
Trees, plants, cooling fruits, and sweet flowers,
All rise to the praise of my God!

Shall man, the great master of all,
The only insensible prove?
Forbid it, fair gratitude's call,
Forbid it, devotion and love!
The Lord who such wonders could raise,
And still can destroy with a nod,
My lips shall incessantly praise,
My soul shall rejoice in my God.

LESSON XIV.

THE SONG OF MOSES.—DAVID'S LAMENTATION.

I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The LORD, is my strength and song, and he

is become my salvation; he is my God, and I will prepare him a habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. The depths have covered them; they sank into the bottom as a stone.

Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power; thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. In the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee; thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

With the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together,—the floods stood upright as a heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, "I will pursue,—I will overtake,—I will divide the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them." Thou didst blow with thy wind, and the sea covered them; they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like unto thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, and the earth swallowed them.

Thou in thy mercy hast led forth thy people whom thou hast redeemed; thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

The people shall hear and be afraid; fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over whom thou hast purchased.

Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place O LORD,

which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the sanctuary, O LORD, which thy hands have established. The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

Exodus X

David lamented with this lamentation over Saul, and over Jonathan his son. The beauty of Israel is slain upon the high places: how are the mighty fallen!

Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain upon you, nor fields of offerings; for there the shield of the mighty is cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided, they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant hast thou been unto me; thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

II Samuel, I.

LESSON XV.

ALFRED THE GREAT.—CANUTE.—HAROLD.

From the year 827 to 1016, the country continued to be governed by Saxon kings, among whom may be mentioned Alfred the Great, who particularly distinguished himself by his bravery, in rescuing his country from the Danes, parties of whom were continually landing, plundering the inhabitants, and committing every species of violence.

It is said that this good king divided the day into three portions, namely, eight hours were devoted to sleep, diet, and exercise; eight to public business, and eight to study and devotion; he also founded the University of Oxford—he divided England into counties—and established trial by jury.

In the year 1016, Sweyn, the king of Denmark, having received great provocation, landed with a large army, desolating the country wherever he went, and after a great deal of fighting, he got possession of the whole kingdom; the country remained under Danish rule for the space of twenty-six years, during which time, four different kings reigned, when the Saxon line was restored.

One of these kings was Canute the Great, who may be ranked amongst the greatest sovereigns of the age; an anecdote related of this king, is perhaps, worthy of being recorded.

Being at Southampton, and wishing to reprove the servile flattery of his courtiers, who wanted to persuade him that he was more than mortal, he commanded a chair to be placed on the sea side, whilst the tide was rising.

Being seated on the chair when the water nearly

reached him, he, with affected solemnity, thus addressed the sea, "The land upon which I sit is mine, I charge thee to approach no nearer, nor dare to wet the feet of me, thy royal master."

The waves paying no attention to his commands, he rebuked his flatterers by observing, "There is only one Omnipotent Being who can say to the ocean 'Thus far shalt thou go, but no farther.'"

Harold, the last of the Saxon kings, lost his life in battle; William, the Duke of Normandy laying claim to the crown, landed with a large army with the view of obtaining it; Harold collected all the men he could, and went to oppose his advance.

A most sanguinary conflict took place between the two armies, near Hastings, in Sussex, when the English were routed, Harold being slain, also his two brothers, fighting by his side, and William, afterwards called the Conqueror, ascended the throne without opposition; thus ended the Saxon line which had continued upwards of six hundred years.

LESSON XVI.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Vale, valley, and dale have much the same signification; they all mean low ground between two hills, with a stream of water running through them.

A benevolent mind will endeavour to cast a veil over the failings of his fellow man; an ill disposed person will probably expose them.

Veins are small tubes in our bodies filled with blood; *the arteries* conduct the blood from the heart, and the

veins take it back to be renewed and made fit, to again circulate through the body.

The weathercock or vane, is a plate which turns with the wind, and points to that part from which it blows.

Norway, it is supposed, produces sufficient pine timber to supply the wants of Europe, but from the rugged nature of the country, only a small part will pay the expense of removal to the ports for shipping.

A harbour is a port, or haven, where ships can ride in safety, being protected both from the wind and waves.

Lime, used for ceiling rooms, is mixed with hair taken from cows' and horses' hides, to make it a stronger cement; without hair it would not adhere to the laths.

When skins come out of the hands of the tanner, they pass into those of the currier, who dresses them and makes them fit for the use of the boot maker, saddler and glover.

Cardinal Wolsey is said to have used these memorable words, when on his death bed; "Had I served my God with the same zeal that I have served my king, he would not have deserted me in my grey hairs."

The holly is a prickly evergreen shrub, or tree, highly ornamental in the winter season, when other trees are stripped of their foliage.

If a sovereign of this country succeed to the throne before attaining the age of eighteen, he or she is said to be a minor, and public affairs are under the management of a regent, chosen by the two Houses of Parliament.

At the age of twenty-one a young man attains his majority, that is, he ceases to be a minor, and is his own master, he also comes into full possession of any property to which he is entitled.

At Monkwearmouth, in the county of Durham, the miners have to descend a shaft of upwards of five hundred

dred yards deep, before they reach the seam which they are working.

Belgium is the most populous country in that is, it contains the greatest number of inhabitants to the square mile.

The title of Czar, given to the emperors of Russia, was first assumed by Peter the Great; it is said to be a corruption of Cæsar, the name given to the Roman emperors.

The osier willow is remarkable for its toughness; it is this quality which makes it so valuable for basket-making.

The pyramids of Egypt have now stood but three and four thousand years; the largest one stands on eleven acres of ground.

An initial is the first letter of a word, used instead of the word itself; thus, if my name be John and I only write J. S., I use my initials instead of my name at length.

Insects are propagated, or brought into life, in the same manner as birds; these eggs, the parent insect sits on in the most secure places, and the warmth of the sun brings them into life.

Insects that live on the juices of plants and flowers are provided with a proboscis, or long hollow pipe, like the trunk of the elephant; through this they suck up those juices.

LESSON XVII.

THE ELEPHANT.—THE EAGLE

The elephant is the largest, and, at the same time, the strongest quadruped, known in the present age. It occasionally grows to the height of thirteen feet.

■ has been known to live one hundred and twenty years.

The elephant has two tusks, one growing out of each side of his mouth, somewhat in the form of a horn; these tusks, being ivory, are of great value, frequently weighing upwards of one hundred pounds each.

When tamed, the elephant is as tractable as the dog, and very useful to man, carrying heavy burdens, taking great care of his load, and cheerfully obeying his keeper, who sits upon his neck, guiding him with a short rod of iron, or more commonly, simply with his voice.

The proboscis, or trunk of the elephant is deservedly an object of admiration; it is his organ of breathing, and with this instrument he procures his food, and carries it to his mouth; with it, also, he sucks up the water he requires, afterwards pouring it down his throat.

Such are the various powers of this wonderful instrument, that with it he can either pull up a middle sized tree, or take up a pin.

Wild elephants live in a state of society, frequenting the banks of rivers, and the depths of forests, feeding on leaves, grain, and fruit, and never attacking other animals, except provoked by violence.

The elephant is affectionate to those who are kind to him, but he does not readily forget an injury, or an insult; an anecdote is related of one in Delhi, a city of Asia, which, in passing a tailor's shop, with the window open, had the curiosity to put in his trunk, probably expecting a piece of bread, or some other treat, when one of the workmen pricked it with a needle.

The elephant did not at the moment resent the insult, but he went to the nearest dirty pool, and after filling his trunk with the water, he returned to the shop, and squirted the whole upon the offender, and the work which he had in his hands.

Elephants are found wild in the woods of Africa and Asia, but they come to much greater perfection in the latter country; those inhabiting the island of Ceylon yield the finest ivory, as it keeps its colour, whilst other ivory in general becomes yellow in the wearing.

The eagle has always been considered the monarch of birds; its boldness, its noble bearing, its lofty flight, and vast strength well entitle it to this honour; in its habits it is not unlike the lion, which claims the first place among beasts of prey.

The eagle despises small birds, and would not think of attacking a raven or a magpie, unless provoked by it; it will not devour any prey which it has not slain for itself, and often leaves some fragments or offal for less noble birds that may follow.

It likes to reign without a rival, and it is as uncommon to see two pair of eagles on one mountain side, as it is to see two families of lions in the same quarter of a forest.

An eagle can soar out of sight in less than three minutes, and yet, from this height, when it is invisible to man, it can mark out a hare or a rabbit on the ground, dart straight down upon it, and make it its prey.

The golden eagle is a native of Europe, and has been taken on the northern mountains of Great Britain, and it is affirmed that when a pair have had young ones, they have sometimes seized children, and borne them away as food for their offspring.

It is recorded, that in a time of famine, a peasant clipped the wings of some young eaglets, and tied them fast, so as to increase their cries, for a long time,—during which, the old birds brought so much provision, *that the poor man's family was amply furnished with supplies.*

LESSON XVIII.

NEGLECT OF TRIFLES.—THE FRUITS OF INDUSTRY.

Jacob Giles, having some business to transact at a neighbouring town, had saddled his horse, and looking at the animal's feet, he perceived that a nail was missing from one of the shoes; "no matter," said he to himself, "the want of a single nail cannot make much difference."

Jacob had scarcely ridden three miles, when the horse cast his shoe; he dismounted, intending to lead him to a blacksmith's forge, which he knew to be near at hand; but he presently changed his mind, and determined to proceed to the town with only three shoes.

He had not been long again seated in the saddle, when the poor beast fell lame, and he was forced to dismount, and perform the rest of the journey on foot; while he was grieving over the hardship of being obliged to walk, he was attacked by robbers, who not only took all his money, but nearly deprived him of his life.

"Who would have thought," said he, "that so many evils could arise from such a trifle? All this loss, and all this sickness, are the consequence of neglecting to fasten my horse's shoe, from which only a single nail was missing."

"And it is well it is no worse," said one who heard him, "carelessness about trifles is often the cause of great misfortunes; and if those, who pay no attention to things which appear to be of little consequence, sometimes escape punishment, it is not because they do not deserve it."—*From the German.*

A poor widow had two sons, who were strong, active lads, and they worked hard, to gain a living for themselves and their aged mother; "she reared us in our infancy," they said to each other, "and it is now our turn to support her in old age."

Their chief employment was to gather a kind of willow, called osiers, from a neighbouring bed, and the poor mother, as far as her strength would permit, took part in their labour.

As they were returning one day, with each as heavy a bundle as he could carry, a merchant, who was passing by, being touched with the affection and attention of the boys, and the persevering industry of the widow, thus addressed her:—

"If you will trust your two sons to my care for a short time, I will put them into the way of changing those bundles of osiers into bags of gold." At first she thought he was joking, but, when he assured her that he was in earnest, she accepted his proposal, though their parting was a bitter one, both to herself and to them.

The separation, however, was of no long duration, and, in the mean time, the merchant supplied the poor woman with money sufficient for her wants; the boys were carefully instructed in the art of basket making, and such were their diligence and activity, that in a very few months they returned to their mother, and established a business of their own.

Their kind patron became the purchaser of as many baskets as they could make, and, in a very short space of time, the hut, which they had hitherto occupied, was exchanged for a neat cottage, in which they had the gratification of receiving the rich merchant as a frequent guest.

"Have not I kept my word?" said he, on one occasion

to the widow, when he had taken all their stock of baskets, and given an order for a large additional supply, "you have, indeed," said she, "for by your kind help and encouragement, my two sons have really been enabled to convert their bundles of osiers into bags of gold."

"And so it will generally happen," observed the merchant, "that the honest endeavours of the industrious, although their best efforts may fail for a time, will, at length, by God's blessing, be crowned with success."—*From the German.*

LESSON XIX.

MERCURY.—VENUS.

MERCURY is that planet whose orbit is nearest the sun: by the word orbit we mean its path, or way; thus, if I fasten a ball to the end of a piece of string, and whirl it round, the circle the ball makes, in passing round my hand, is its orbit.

In moving round the sun, Mercury is thirty-seven millions of miles distant from that luminary, and he moves with the amazing velocity of one hundred and ten thousand miles an hour, that being nearly two thousand miles a minute—a velocity far beyond our comprehension.

Mercury is about sixteen times smaller than the earth, and he turns round upon his axis once in twenty-four hours, therefore, the length of his day is about the same as ours, and as he performs his journey round the sun in about three months, it follows, that his year is only the fourth of the length of ours.

This planet is seldom seen with the naked eye, and

when seen, only for two hours before the rising of the sun, and two hours after his setting; the reason is, he moves in an orbit so near the sun, that he is usually hidden in the powerful rays of that great luminary.

The atmosphere of Mercury is not so light and thin as that of the earth; this appears so ordered by an Allwise Providence, that the inhabitants may be screened from the excessive heat of the sun, which will be seven times greater than that which we experience.

VENUS, to us the most beautiful of all the planets, comes next in order to Mercury, and, with the exception of the sun and moon, is the most splendid of all the heavenly bodies.

Venus is smaller than the earth, and moves in an orbit seventy millions of miles from the sun; she accomplishes her journey in a little more than seven months, travelling at the rate of eighty thousand miles an hour.

She is called the Morning Star, when she rises a little before the sun, and the Evening Star, when she sets a little after him, but, in either case, she can never be seen longer than about three hours at one time.

This planet is a dark body like the earth, but her mountains are much more lofty, for the height of the loftiest has been ascertained to be not less than nineteen miles, which is nearly four times the height of any mountain on our globe.

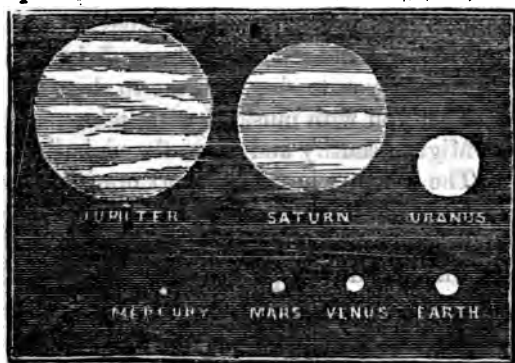
When seen through a telescope, she does not always appear round like a globe, on the contrary, she apparently increases and decreases, in some degree like the moon, as more or less of her enlightened side is turned towards the earth, and dark spots are sometimes seen on her disc or face.

By telescope we mean an optical instrument, through

which objects appear much larger than they do to the naked eye; Doctor Herschel constructed one which had a magnifying power of six thousand times, and the Earl of Ross has one of still greater power, which cost nearly twenty thousand pounds.

If the planet Venus be peopled, the sun will appear to the inhabitants twice as large as he does to us, and the earth will appear to them much the same as Venus does to the inhabitants here.

The following figure represents the comparative sizes of the planets.



LESSON XX.

THE NIGHTINGALE AND GLOW-WORM.—THE
CUCKOO.—THE ROBIN.

A nightingale, that all day long
Had cheer'd the village with his song,
Nor yet at eve his note suspended,
Nor yet when eventide was ended,
Began to feel,—as well he might,—
The keen demands of appetite;

JOHN GUY'S

When looking eagerly around,
He spied, far off, upon the ground,
A something shining in the dark,
And knew the glow-worm by his spark,
So, stooping down from hawthorn top,
He thought to put him in his crop.
The worm, aware of his intent,
Harang'd him thus, quite eloquent,—
“Did you admire my lamp,” quoth he,
“As much as I your minstrelsy,
You would abhor to do me wrong,
As much as I to spoil your song;
For 'twas the self same power divine
Taught you to sing, and me to shine;
That you with music, I with light,
Might beautify and cheer the night.”
The songster heard his short oration,
And, warbling out his approbation,
Releas'd him as my story tells,
And found a supper somewhere else.

THE MORAL.

From this short fable, youth may learn
Their real interest to discern;
That brother should not strive with brot
And worry and oppress each other,
But, joined in unity and peace,
Their mutual happiness increase;
Well pleas'd another's faults to hide,
And in his virtues feel a pride.

Cooper.

Hail, beauteous stranger of the wood,
Attendant on the Spring!
Now heav'n repairs thy rural seat.
And woods thy welcome sing.

Soon as the daisy decks the green,
Thy certain voice we hear;
Hast thou a star to guide thy path,
Or mark the rolling year?

Delightful visitant! with thee,
I hail the time of flowers,
When heav'n is fill'd with music sweet
Of birds among the bowers.

The school boy, wand'ring in the wood,
To pull the flowers so gay,
Starts, thy curious voice to hear,
And imitates thy lay.

Soon as the pea puts forth her bloom,
Thou fly'st the vocal vale;
An annual guest in other lands,
Another spring to hail.

Sweet bird; thy bower is ever green,
Thy sky is ever clear;
Thou hast no sorrow in thy song,
No winter in thy year!

Oh, could I fly, I'd fly with thee;
We'd make, with social wing,
Our annual visit o'er the globe,
Companions of the Spring.

Logan.

Little bird, with bosom red,
Welcome to my humble shed;
Daily near my table steal,
While I take my scanty meal;
Doubt not, little though there be
But I'll cast a crumb to thee;
Well rewarded if I spy

Pleasure in thy glancing eye,
And see thee, when thou'st had thy fill,
Plume thy breast, and wipe thy bill.

Come, my feather'd friend again,
Well thou know'st the broken pane!
Ask of me thy daily store,
Ever welcome to my door.

Langhorn.

LESSON XXI.

THE TWO BEES.—THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE.—THE DRUMMER BOY.

One fine morning in May, two bees set forward in quest of honey; the one was wise and temperate, the other careless and extravagant; they soon arrived at a garden enriched with aromatic herbs, the most fragrant flowers, and the most delicious fruits.

They regaled themselves for a time on the various dainties that were spread before them; the one loading his thigh at intervals with provisions for the hive, against the distant winter; the other revelling in sweets without regard to any thing but present gratification.

At length they found a wide mouth'd phial, that hung beneath the bough of a peach tree, filled with honey ready tempered, and exposed to their taste in the most alluring manner.

The thoughtless epicure, notwithstanding all his friend's persuasions, plunged headlong into the vessel, resolving to indulge himself in all the pleasures of sensuality.

The phil-os'-o-pher, on the other hand, sipped a little with caution, but being suspicious of danger, flew off to fruits and flowers; where, by the moderation of his meals, he improved his relish for the true enjoyment of them.

In the evening, however, he called upon his friend, to enquire whether he would return to the hive, but found him surfeited in sweets, which he was as unable to leave, as to enjoy.

Clogged in his wings, enfeebled in his feet, and his whole frame enervated, he was just able to bid his friend adieu, and to lament with his last breath, that though a taste of pleasure may quicken the relish of life, yet an unrestrained indulgence in it will inevitably lead to destruction.

A boy smitten with the colours of a beautiful butterfly, pursued it from flower to flower with unceasing pains; first he aimed to surprise it among the leaves of a rose, then to cover it with his cap, as it was feeding on a daisy.

At one time he hoped to secure it, as it revelled on a sprig of myrtle, and at another grew sure of his prize, perceiving it to loiter on a bed of violets, but the fickle fly still eluded his attempts.

At last, observing it half-buried in the cup of a tulip, he rushed forward, and snatching it with violence, he crushed it to pieces.

Thus by his eagerness to enjoy, he lost the object of his pursuit.—From this instance young persons may learn, that pleasure is but a painted butterfly; which if temperately pursued, may serve to amuse, but which, when embraced with too much ardour, will perish in the grasp.

In the war with France before the Revolution, an English drummer only fifteen years of age, having wandered from his camp too near the French lines, was seized, and brought before the French commander.

On being asked who he was, by the general, he answered, "a drummer in the English service." This not gaining credit, a drum was sent for, and he was desired to beat a couple of marches, which he did.

The French officer's suspicion being, however, not quite removed, he told the drummer to beat a retreat, "a retreat, sir," replied the boy; "I do not know what that is." This answer so pleased the commander, that he dismissed the drummer, and wrote to his general, commending his spirited behaviour.

LESSON XXII.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.—WILLIAM RUFUS.—

HENRY I.

WILLIAM the CONQUEROR ascended the throne in the year 1066, and was crowned at Westminster, on Christmas day of the same year. William was a brave man, but haughty, ambitious, and cruel in his government; in his person he was below the middle size, but of great strength, few men of his time being able to bend his bow, or use his weapons.

His reign was by no means popular, having given great offence to his English subjects, by showing too much partiality to his Norman followers, whom he often enriched at their expense.

William established the Curfew,* or eight o'clock

* *It means cover fire; on hearing this bell all lights and fires were to be put out.*

bell, to prevent secret meetings among his subjects in the nights—he erected the Tower of London—he ordered the Doomsday Book to be compiled, which is still in being—and during his reign surnames were first regularly used.

After a reign of twenty-one years, William died in France, in consequence of a hurt received from the violent plunging of his horse, leaving three sons, Robert, William, and Henry.

William the Conqueror was succeeded by his second son WILLIAM, surnamed RUFUS, on account of his red hair, in the year 1087. Robert, the eldest son, ought to have succeeded, but he had given great offence to his father by openly rebelling against him.

Robert, the true heir, not being satisfied to resign what he considered to be his right, determined on enforcing his claim to the crown, but being of an irresolute turn, and prodigal in his expenses, he squandered away both his time, and his money, until the opportunity was lost.

William was very far from being a good man; his great avarice, and numerous vices, had made him hateful to his subjects, but his reign was happily short, for before completing thirteen years, he was accidentally killed by an arrow, shot at a stag, by his attendant, Sir Walter Tyrrel, in the New Forest, Hampshire.

Such was the estimation in which he was held by those about him, that his body was allowed to remain in the forest until the next day, and then a charcoal cart was considered sufficiently respectable to convey it to Winchester, where it was interred without ceremony.

William Rufus was succeeded by his younger brother, HENRY I., in the year 1100. Robert being abroad

at the time of William's death, Henry took advantage of that circumstance, and hastened to Winchester to secure the royal treasures, and was soon after crowned at Westminster.

Henry was a much better man than either his father or his brother William; his abilities were good, and he governed his subjects with great prudence; he was also much attached to learning.

Yet, a great stain will ever remain on his character for his cruelty to Robert, who, in a battle between the two brothers, was taken prisoner, and closely confined in Cardiff Castle, during the remainder of his life, a period of twenty-eight years—some historians add, that his eyes were put out by order of Henry, but this, we hope, for the honour of human nature, was not true.

After a reign of thirty-five years, Henry's death was occasioned by his eating too plentifully of lampreys, a fish of the eel kind; during his reign arched stone bridges were first used—Rents were first paid in money—A standard for weights and measures was fixed, the yard being taken from the length of Henry's arm.

LESSON XXIII.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

England contains forty counties, and these are classed into six circuits, for the convenience of the judges attending the assizes.

If a vessel made of brass or copper be put in a damp place, it will soon be covered with a green rust, called *verdigris*; this rust is a deadly poison.

The globe on which we live is divided in five zones;

the two adjoining the North and South poles, are called frigid, on account of their extreme cold; the next two are called temperate, because they are neither hot nor cold; the middle one is termed the torrid zone, on account of its great heat.

Any thing round, like a boy's hoop, is said to be circular; anything round, like a ball, is said to be spherical or globular.

Phos-pho-rus is a substance obtained from bones; it has the remarkable property of taking fire, and burning with a gentle flame, when exposed to the air.

When a ca-nal is carried over a river, or any low ground, the way is called an aqueduct; when a railway is carried over a river, or other roads, the way is called a viaduct.

Liverpool, the great mart of the American trade, is advantageously situated on the river Mersey; two or three centuries ago, it consisted of a few fishermen's huts.

Sponge is a soft porous substance found adhering to rocks, covered with sea water; it is said to be a zo'-o-phite, because it partakes both of the nature of a vegetable, and that of an animal.

The first appearance of a winged insect after leaving the egg, is that of a grub; its next that of a chrys'-a-lis; its last that of a perfect moth or fly; in this state it deposits its eggs for a new generation, and then dies.

Tortoise shell is the horny covering of the marine* or sea tortoise; it softens like horn when heated, and is formed into combs, spectacle frames, and a variety of other useful articles.

The diamond is the most valuable of all the precious stones, and such is its hardness, that it can only be cut by itself, hence we have the old saying, "diamond cut diamond."

*Ma-reen.'

When the air is drawn out of a pipe with one end immersed in water, the pressure or weight of the air or atmosphere, will force the water up the pipe to the height of thirty-three feet; this is proved by the working of the pump.

A monarchy* is a country under the government of one person; England is a constitutional monarchy, that is, the sovereign governs according to the laws.

An-i-mal'-cu-lá are insects so small that they cannot be seen with the naked eye; a single drop of stagnant water contains many thousands of these minute creatures.

A government is said to be democratic when the sovereign power is placed in the whole body of the people, as in The United States of America.

A centurion is often mentioned in the Gospels; he was a Roman officer, who commanded a hundred men, or of much the same rank as a captain in the English army.

LESSON XXIV.

THE SPIDER.—THE BOA CONSTRICTOR.

The spider is an insect so commonly met with, that it is unnecessary to describe its size and shape; it has eight feet, each of which ends in a hook; it has, also, eight eyes, but these cannot be moved like those of man, so that their number is probably designed to make up for that want.

In its body it has five little openings called "spinnerets," out of which comes the gummy substance of *which it forms its thread*; it usually chooses for its web

*Mon'-ar-ke.

place near which there is some hole to which it may escape, as, for instance, the wall in the ceiling in the corner of a room.

In forming its web, it fixes one of its threads to the wall, by means of its spinneret, and then passes to the other side, carrying its thread with it, and fastening it to the opposite wall; after it has carried many threads backwards and forwards in one direction, it goes upwards and downwards, weaving other threads across them, till the snare is formed in which flies and other small insects are to be entangled.

It also constructs a small cell for itself, usually in the middle of the web, where it sits patiently waiting for its prey; sometimes the cell is fastened to the web by threads, which shake it as soon as anything is struggling and give it notice to descend, and seize upon the unfortunate fly that has become entangled in the meshes.

A kind of silk has been produced from the threads of some spiders, and an attempt was made to keep them for this purpose, but they were found to be so fierce, and so fond of fighting with each other, that in a little time very few were left, besides the silk they produced was not so good as that which is spun by the silkworm.

It has been observed by naturalists, that the spider is only furnished with a certain quantity of the gummy substance, of which it forms its threads, and that when this stock is exhausted, it has no means of subsisting but by attacking a younger and weaker spider, and taking possession of its web.

Among the many evils attending a hot climate, may be named the presence of snakes or serpents, of which *naturalists have reckoned about two hundred species or*

kinds, and of these the largest is the boa constrictor, chiefly found in Africa, and South America.

Some of these monsters reach the length of sixty or seventy feet, and such are their amazing powers, that one has been known to wind itself round the body of a buffalo, and after breaking in all its bones, and licking it all over with its tongue, to swallow it whole.

When the boa has thus devoured an animal of any size, it falls into a state of sleep or stupor, during which it may easily be destroyed; when it wakes up hungry, it is very active, and usually makes its way to the bank of a river in search of food, when entwining its tail round the trunk or branch of a tree, it swings itself backwards and forwards until some animal comes to drink, upon which it seizes and makes its prey.

LESSON XXV.

THE OVER INQUISITIVE BOY PUNISHED.

An unwelcome visitor had found his way into Mr. Walter's poultry yard, a visitor that would probably carry something away with him.

To such an intruder we commonly say "your company is not agreeable," and so would Mr. Walter have done long ago, but sly Reynard did not give him the opportunity, although he made frequent visits to the poultry.

No one would have suspected these visits, had not the poultry begun to disappear; first a poor hen was missing, then a pigeon, then a chicken or two, and at *last a fine fat goose*, and all this was done in such a sly manner that no person ever saw the robber.

Mr. Walter did not like thus to be deprived of his poultry, and one day named the circumstance to his neighbour, who said, "Oh! I can help you sir, I have an excellent fox-trap, and you shall have the use of it, and I trust you will soon have the pleasure of making Mr. Reynard's acquaintance, but you must caution the children not to meddle with it, for such a trap is dangerous."

Mr. Walter thanked him, took the trap home, and showed it to his children, telling them to be careful not to come near it, lest they should be hurt; he then tied a dead hen upon the trap, and when all the poultry had gone to roost, he set it in the yard.

Now George, one of Mr. Walter's children, had rather too great a share of curiosity, for he must know everything, whether it was proper for him to know it or not, and his father frequently told him that his over inquisitiveness would, at some time, bring him into trouble.

The trap had been set about an hour, and it was quite dark out of doors, when George began to wonder whether the fox was already caught; he knew that the poultry yard was not yet fastened, and he thought he could visit it and no person would know.

He went into the yard, but he could neither see nor hear anything of the fox, but in groping his way back, he unfortunately stepped upon the trap, and his leg was caught in it; he shrieked so loud, that every one in the house was alarmed, and hastened with lights to see what had happened.

When they came to the yard, they found not the robber-fox in the trap, but poor George, with his leg held fast between two iron hoops, with sharp teeth, which pinched so hard, that he was almost distracted with pain.

His father released his leg from the trap, for a surgeon, who bound up the wound, George could not feel thankful enough that was not broken. It was about two months could run about as usual, and during that time learned a pretty hard, though a very useful lesson.

In a few days after, the real fox was caught, they did not, on that occasion, send for a surgeon, shot the robber, and of his fur they made a coat for George's little sister.

LESSON XXVI.

THE EARTH.

The planet that comes next in order, in the Solar System, is the Earth, that is, the globe on which we live, and it performs its revolution round the sun in three hundred and sixty-five days, moving with a velocity of nearly a thousand miles a minute.

If the Earth did not make this annual journey, we should have all our seasons alike, and there would be no distinctions of Summer and Winter, nor of Spring and Autumn.

The Earth also turns round on its axis every twenty-four hours, which gives us the agreeable change of day and night; if it were not for this movement, one half of the world would have perpetual day, and the other half perpetual night.

We cannot see this movement, because the moon's sphere moves along with the earth, but if we

Observe the sun, the moon, or the stars, we shall have a convincing proof.

Thus the sun appears to rise in the morning, and to set in the evening, while, in reality, it is not the sun which rises and sets, but it is the earth that is turning upon its axis from the west to the east.

Perhaps this may be made more familiar, by supposing that we are rapidly travelling in a carriage, either on the high road, or on the railway, when the houses, the trees, and the other objects on the side, appear to move in a contrary direction to that in which we are going, and the carriage in which we are seated, appears to stand still; and it is thus we are deceived with respect to the daily motion of the earth.

The cir-cum'-fer-ence of the Earth is nearly twenty-five thousand miles, and its di-am'-e-ter a little short of eight thousand; by the word circumference we mean the distance round a body; thus, if I measure round the middle of an orange, or a ball, with a piece of string, the length of the string is the circumference of the orange or ball.

By diameter is meant the distance from side to side, exactly through the centre or middle; thus, if I pass a piece of wire through the middle of an apple, the length of that part of the wire which is hidden, is the diameter of the apple.

That the Earth is a round body, like a globe, may be proved in different ways; but nothing can be more convincing than the fact, that many persons sailed round it in former times, among whom may be named Lord Anson and Captain Cook.

In the present day, sailing round the world is a common occurrence, for ships bound for Aus-tra'-li-a, usually go by the Cape of Good Hope, and return by Cape Horn, and in doing this they cannot avoid sailing round it.

The following diagram will serve to illustrate the globular form of the earth.



The young pupil will naturally exclaim, "how the world be round, seeing we have such high mountains and hills!" To this it may be answered, if a mite taken from a cheese, and placed on the rind of a (orange, if it could speak, it might also exclaim, "a mountainous country is this!"—In reality, the qualities seen on the rind of an orange, are greater proportion to its size, than those found on the sun of the earth.

If we could dig through the world, we should find the heavens the same as we do here, and find the other side peopled the same as this: those people we call An-tip'-o-des, which means "having their feet directly opposite to ours."

Some persons will wonder how it is possible that the Antipodes can walk on the under side of the world, with their feet opposite to ours; they have just the same right to wonder how we can walk with our feet to theirs—both are kept to the earth by gravitation or attraction.

On every part of the globe the inhabitants have the heavens over their heads, and the earth under their feet, and in twelve hours, my feet will point in the very direction my head now does.

By gravitation or attraction is meant that power which large bodies have of attracting, or drawing smaller ones to themselves; thus, the Earth attracts or draws

so itself every smaller body that comes within its influence.

The Earth is surrounded by a thin fluid, called the atmosphere, and this extends in every direction about fifty miles; this atmosphere is heaviest near the earth, and decreases in weight as it increases in distance from it.

This is proved from its not raising the quicksilver in the ba-rom'e-ter, or weather glass, so high, on the top of a mountain, as it does at the bottom.

And this is also proved by persons who go up in a balloon, for after they have attained a certain height, they are obliged to throw out sand, to enable them to ascend higher.

The atmosphere near the Earth is about eight hundred times lighter than water; if it were not so light and thin, we could not move about so easily, and we could not see the light so well through it.

LESSON XXVII.

THE HARE AND TORTOISE.—THE BLIND BOY.

In days of yore, when time was young,
And birds convers'd, as well as sung;
When use of speech was not confin'd,
Merely to brutes of human kind,—
A forward hare, of swiftness vain,
The genius of the neighbouring plain,
Would oft deride the drudging crowd;—
For geniuses are mostly proud;
He'd boast his flight, 'twere vain to follow,
For dog and horse he'd beat them hollow;

Nay, if he put forth all his strength,
 Outstrip his brethren half a length.
 A tortoise heard his vain oration,
 And vented thus his indignation:
 "O puss! it bodes thee dire disgrace
 When I defy thee to the race;
 Come, 'tis a match; nay, no denial,
 I'll lay my shell upon the trial."
 'Twas done, and done,—all fair,—a bet,
 Judges prepar'd, and distance set.
 The scampering hare outstripp'd the wind,
 The creeping tortoise lagg'd behind,
 And scarce had pass'd a single pole,
 When puss had almost reach'd the goal.
 "Friend tortoise," quoth the jeering hare,
 "Your burden's more than you can bear;
 To help your speed it were as well
 That I should ease you of your shell;
 Jog on a little faster, prithee;
 I'll take a nap and then be with'ee."
 The tortoise heard his taunting jeer,
 But still resolv'd to persevere;
 And to the goal securely crept,
 While puss, unknowing, soundly slept.
 The bets were won, the hare awoke,
 When thus the victor tortoise spoke;—
 "Puss, though I own thy quicker parts,
 Things are not always done by starts;
 You may deride my awkward pace,
 But *slow* and *steady* wins the race."

Lloyd.

Oh! say, what is that thing call'd light.

Which I must ne'er enjoy;

What are the blessings of the sight,

Oh! tell a poor blind boy?

You talk of wondrous things you see,
You say the sun shines bright;
I feel him warm, but how can he
Or make it day or night?

My day or night, myself I make,
Whene'er I sleep or play:
And could I ever keep awake,
With me 'twere always day.

With heavy sighs I often hear
You mourn my hapless wo;
But, sure with patience I can bear,
A loss I ne'er can know.

Then let not, what I cannot have
My cheer of mind destroy;
Whilst thus I sing, I am a king,
Although a poor blind boy.

LESSON XXVIII.

THE FOX AND CAT.—THE ATHEIST.—THE FOX AND
RAVEN.—THE TWO FROGS.

A Fox and a Cat travelling together, began to converse on the different dangers to which they were exposed; the fox commenced the subject, and he assured his companion he truly pitied her hard lot, for she had a number of enemies, and only one solitary means of escape, if placed in danger, while he himself had a hundred shifts by which he could save himself.

While thus beguiling the way by friendly chat, a pack of hounds came in view, when poor puss made use of her only expedient, by running up a tree that was

near at hand, where she was safe; while reynard, with all his tricks and cunning, could not elude the hounds, and he was speedily overtaken and torn to pieces.

The moral to be drawn from this fable is, that the person who steadily follows one pursuit, is much more likely to succeed in life, than one who embarks in a variety of concerns.

An Atheist, sitting under the shade of a large oak, was endeavouring to prove, from the unfitness of things, that there was no Supreme Governor of the world.

He thought it ridiculous that the lordly oak, the king of the forest, should only have insignificant acorns to bear, whilst the pumpkin grew upon a plant wholly unable to support it.

In the midst of these reflections, happening to look up, an acorn accidentally fell on his face, when he could not avoid exclaiming, "how thankful I feel that it was not a pumpkin, for if it had been one, it would have killed me on the spot."

A fox observing a raven on the branch of a tree, with a fine piece of cheese in her mouth, began to study how he might possess himself of so delicious a morsel.

"Dear madam," said he, "I am extremely glad to see you this morning, your fine shape, and shining feathers, are the delight of my eyes; and would you but favour me with a song, I doubt not, that your voice is equal to the rest of your charms."

Deluded with this flattering speech, the raven opened her mouth to give him a specimen of her song, when down dropped the cheese, which the fox snatched up, and bore away in triumph, leaving the raven to lament *her vanity at leisure*: thus, when we listen to flattery, *we lose sight of common sense.*

One hot sultry day in summer, two frogs agreed to travel together in search of water, as all the ponds in the neighbourhood were dried up; after travelling some time, they came to a deep well, and sitting down upon the edge of it, began to consult whether they should leap into it or not.

The more thoughtless of the frogs was greatly in favour of it, saying, "there was plenty of clear spring water, and no danger of being disturbed." "Well," said the other, "all this may be true, but should this well also dry up, I do not see how we are to get out again.

This fable instructs us never to enter upon any thing of importance without due thought.

LESSON XXIX.

STEPHEN.—HENRY II.—RICHARD I.

Henry I, was succeeded by STEPHEN, the grandson of William the Conqueror on the female side in the year 1135; Matilda, the daughter of Henry, was the rightful heir, but Stephen, prompted by ambition, hastened to seize the royal treasures, and so far succeeded as to be proclaimed king.

Matilda also asserted her claim to the throne, and being supported by a powerful party, she was crowned at Winchester, Stephen having been previously deposed, but when she came into power, she treated her subjects with such haughtiness, that they conspired against her, and Stephen was taken from the dungeon in which he was confined, and replaced upon the throne.

Stephen possessed many of those qualities necessary

to form a popular monarch; he was graceful in his appearance, industrious in his habits, and of great activity, but in usurping the throne, he took that which did not belong to him, and brought much misery upon himself, and was the cause of great bloodshed among the people; he reigned nineteen years.

Stephen was succeeded by HENRY II. the son of Matilda, and grandson of Henry I. in the year 1154; although he was only twenty-one years of age when he ascended the throne, he corrected many abuses in the government, he granted charters to many large towns, and made great improvements for the good of his subjects.

Every thing of a public nature seemed to prosper in Henry's hands, but he was extremely unfortunate in his domestic affairs, for most of his sons rebelled against him, and even his wife supported them in their unnatural efforts to wrest the kingdom from him.

At last it is supposed Henry died of a broken heart, caused by the ingratitude of his children; during his reign, which continued thirty-five years, Ireland was annexed to the English crown—England was divided into six circuits for the convenience of the judges—and glass windows were first used in private houses.

Henry II. was succeeded by RICHARD I. his eldest surviving son, in the year 1189. Richard's first step on coming into power, was to join the king of France in a Crusade to deliver Jerusalem, and the Holy Land, from the Saracens or infidels.

In this foolish expedition he performed many deeds of valour, but at the same time, he was prodigal of the blood of his subjects, and improverished both them, and himself, for no other advantage than that of empty honour.

During his absence his brother John, assisted by the French king, attempted to make himself master of the kingdom, but did not succeed; Richard being informed of his brother's base attempt, at the desire of his mother, forgave him, with this generous remark, "I wish I could as easily forget his offence, as he will my pardon."

Richard was engaging in his person, and from his invincible courage he was surnamed the Lion hearted; and had his prudence equalled his bravery, he would have been a great king; after a reign of ten years, he died of a wound, received from an arrow, when besieging a castle in France.

LESSON XXX.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Tea is the leaves of an evergreen shrub extensively cultivated in Chi'na, Japan', and Assam, a country near the East Indies; the tea shrub is not unlike the laurel in appearance, and its flower somewhat resembles that of the white wild rose.

Tea was first imported into this country from China, about the year 1610, when it was sold for sixty shillings a pound; although tea is now so universally used, yet in the recollection of many persons now living, it was scarcely known in some parts of the country.

Coffee is the berry of a handsome evergreen tree, which grows to the height of about fifteen feet, it is grown in most warm climates, but in the West Indies it is largely cultivated for exportation.

Mo'cha*, in Arabia, has long been celebrated for its

*Mo'ka

fine coffee, but within these late years, so much attention has been paid to its cultivation in other countries that coffee equally fine is produced, especially in the West India islands.

Sugar is a sweet substance made from the juice of sugar-cane extensively cultivated in the West India and other hot countries; the usual height of the cane is about five or six feet, and the stem or stalk is naked, the same as a walking stick, being divided by knots, eight inches apart.

At the top of the stem the cane puts out a number of leaves, from the middle of which rise the flower buds; when the canes are ripe, they are cut down and put up in bundles, and taken to the mill, where they are pressed between heavy iron rollers, and the juice is run into vessels placed to receive it.

The juice is then boiled and the impurities are skimmed off as they rise till it becomes clear; lime powder is then added to it, and it is gently boiled till all the moisture is evaporated; when it thickens and granulates, that is, it looks as if it consisted of grains.

In this state it is called raw or moist sugar, and is packed up in hogsheads, and other packages for exportation or use; the syrup that is skimmed off from the surface in boiling, is molasses, from which the

Flax is a beautiful annual plant with a slender stalk and blue blossoms; the bark of this plant consists of fibres or threads, and these fibres when prepared ready for spinning are called flax.

Flax is sown much in the same way as wheat or any other grain, and when ready, is pulled up by the roots, and steeped in water, till it has fermented sufficiently to cause the fibres of the plant to separate easily, when they have the appearance of fine thread.

After these fibres are more fully separated by beating, it is dried, and after being hackled or dressed, it passes into the flax mill, where, by suitable machinery, it is spun into thread, for weaving into linen cloth.

We import large quantities of flax from Holland, Russia, and Prussia; the towns most noted for their linen manufactures are Londonderry, Belfast, and Carrickfergus, in Ireland, and Leeds and Barnsley in England.

Hemp possesses much the same properties as flax, but is of a coarser nature; when properly prepared, it is manufactured into sail-cloth, sacking, cables for ships, ropes, twine, and other things requiring strength.

LESSON XXXI.

THE SILKWORM.—THE SALMON.

It is to a crawling insect or caterpillar, called the silkworm, that ladies are indebted for the shining substance of which their beautiful dresses are made.

The climate of England is too cold for the silkworm, and it is only kept here through curiosity, but in Asia, and the south of Europe, this insect is preserved and

propagated with great care, and the produce of its labours forms a considerable article of our commerce with France, Italy, and China.

The first appearance of the silkworm after it leaves its egg, is that of a small worm, when it is fed with the leaves of the mulberry tree, in which tree it lives in China and other warm climates.

In about thirty days it has attained its full growth, it ceases to eat, and begins to cover itself with its own silky web; on the third day it is completely hidden from sight, and about the tenth it has completed its task.

The worm is now changed into a crys'-a-lis, and confined within a silken ball called a cocoon; these balls are usually baked to kill the insect, because in its efforts to escape, it would entangle the silk, and make it difficult to wind.

If the insect were allowed to live, it would be changed into a lively white moth; in this state it would flutter about for a few days, lay its eggs for a future supply of silk-worms, and then die.

The ball or cone of silk which each worm produces, is about the size of a pigeon's egg, and when wound off, is a quarter of a mile in length; the principal seats for the manufacturing of silk, are London, Coventry, Manchester, Macclesfield, and Glasgow.

The salmon, if not the finest of our fish, is certainly among the number of them; they occupy, at different seasons, both salt and fresh waters; in the fall of the year they come up into our rivers to great distances, to deposit their spawn, leaping over the dams and waterfalls with surprising agility.

When they return from these excursions they are very lean, and unfit for the table: it has been observed

that the same salmon always come back to the same river, so that those who live on the banks are not afraid of a future plentiful supply, when they see them swimming away in shoals.

Salmon are very plentiful in some rivers, as more than forty thousand were caught in one season, in the river Tweed, but from some cause or other, the number has been much diminished within these late years; like the herring and the mackerel, they travel in large companies, and as they admit of being cured or smoked, they are a most useful article of food.

Salmon are taken both by nets and lines, and sometimes they are speared; in Scotland, men go out at night in boats with torches, which attract the salmon by their glare; they then try to strike them with three-pointed spears, and their aim, through practice, is so sure, that they seldom miss the fish.

LESSON XXXII.

THE STORM.—THE FLY AND THE SPIDER.

A considerable dealer was on his return from a fair, where he had taken a good deal of money for his merchandize; he was mounted on a strong horse, and the bag that contained his gold was made fast to the saddle behind him.

The day had been very sultry, and just as he reached a part of the road, which was skirted on both sides by a thick wood, a vivid flash of lightning, followed by a loud peal of thunder, gave him notice of a coming storm.

The rain soon began to fall in large drops, and in less

than a quarter of an hour, the storm burst : its fury.

He at once began to murmur and rail at the wind, as if the Almighty had sent the express purpose of annoying him, when having aside from the direct road, to seek for shelter the trees of the forest, his bridle was seized by a looking man, who said he would have either or his life.

The dealer put spurs to his horse, withdrew from the robber's hold, and set off at full gallop. The moment after he heard the click from the trigger of the pistol, but the rain had made the priming so cold that the pistol missed fire, and the speed of his horse bore him out of danger.

Proceeding on his journey, he began to reflect on his conduct, and his conscience smote him for his idle and profane murmurs against the wisdom and will of God, for he was now sensible that the very thing which he had railed, was the means of preserving his life.

Thus, in our passage through life, we shall find that the very things that we look upon as great evils, the end prove to be blessings in disguise.

From the

one of his pursuers having discovered his resting-place, was about to dispatch him with his sword, when a fly tickled him so much in the ear that he awoke, and springing to his feet, he arrested the arm of the soldier, and put him to death.

He then fled farther into the forest, and concealed himself in a cavern: during the night, a spider wove its web across the narrow mouth of his hiding place, when a party of the enemy, who were sent in search of him, were about to enter, one of them remarked that it would be so much time lost, as he could not possibly be there.

"For the spider's web," said he, "must have been broken if he had entered the cavern." The prince, who had listened in fear and anxiety to all that had been said, was at once reminded of the foolish, or rather, wicked wish, that he formerly uttered respecting the two harmless insects which had been the means of saving his life.

The prince was truly grateful to heaven for his deliverance, and was ready to acknowledge, with deep humility, that although we could not see the use of many created things, yet he was convinced, that the Great Governor of the world, had made nothing in vain.—*From the German.*

LESSON XXXIII.

THE MOON.

The Moon is not a primary planet like Mercury or Venus, but a secondary one, revolving round her primary planet, the Earth, and accompanying her in her

1

yearly journey round the sun; secondary planets called satellites, by which we understand, small that revolve round larger ones.

The Moon is only two hundred and forty thousand miles distant from the earth, and if it were possible to visit her, and we were to travel at the rate of one mile an hour, we should reach her in about a year and a half.

The diameter of the Moon is about two thousand two hundred miles, and as she is ascertained to be covered with mountains and valleys, we may, perhaps, reasonably suppose that she is inhabited, and that she is so, is the opinion of many philosophers, who have devoted much of their time in making observations on the heavenly bodies.

There is no heavenly body that is distinctly visible to the naked eye, so small as the Moon, and the reason she appears so much larger than the others, is because she is so much nearer.

Although the Moon appears so different to us at different times, yet in reality she is always the same; that is, a dark globe like the earth; her appearance to us entirely depends on her situation with regard to the sun.

When we first see the New Moon, she appears like a crescent or bow, and she gradually increases until she becomes round, when she is called Full Moon; she then begins to decrease, and thus continues until she entirely disappears; when we have no moon, the whole of her dark side is turned towards us, when she cannot be seen.

The Moon is more mountainous than the Earth in proportion to her size, and she also appears to have large circular cavities or hollows, some of which cannot be less than three miles in depth.

Many scientific persons have supposed, that these cavities are volcanoes, and Dr. Herschel, using his powerful telescope, imagined he could see one of them in the actual state of eruption,—throwing out volumes of flame and smoke.

The New Moon is always seen in the west, near the setting sun, and rises nearly an hour later every night; the Full Moon rises opposite to that part where the sun sets, and at the same time; and twenty-nine days and a half elapse between one new moon and another.

Besides affording us light in our long winter nights, the Moon is highly useful to man in causing tides; as she moves round the Earth, she attracts, or draws the water towards her, and it follows her path in a vast wave, several feet in height, and the sea in rising, pours its waters into the channels of rivers, turning their currents upwards towards their sources, and thus enabling ships to sail up them.

Another great advantage attending tides, is, they keep the waters of the sea in constant motion, and this prevents their becoming putrid; in the Bristol Channel the tides sometimes rise more than forty feet, and in some parts of the world even more, but their average height is considerably under twenty.

These tides rise much higher about the New and Full Moon, than they do at other times, and these are called Spring Tides; the reason is, the sun and moon at these seasons, attract the waters in one way, while, when the tides are low, they attract them in opposite directions.

It was formerly supposed that the changes of the Moon had great influence on the weather, but an opinion of that kind cannot long prevail, for, from much and careful observation, compared with regular registers of the weather, it is ascertained that this is not the case.

It has also been thought that the changes of the
had considerable effect upon the insane, that is,
those disordered in their minds; this is also found
incorrect from the testimony of some eminent physi-
who have devoted all their energies to the cure o
dreadful malady.

LESSON XXXIV.

ALEXANDER SELKIRK,* IN THE ISLAND OF J
FERNANDEZ.—THE ROSE.

I am monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute;
From the centre all round to the sea,
I am lord of the fowl and the brute.
O solitude! where are the charms,
That sages have seen in thy face?
Better dwell in the midst of alarms,
Than reign in this horrible place.

I am out of humanity's reach,
I must finish my journey alone,
Never hear the sweet music of speech,
I start at the sound of my own.
The beasts, that roam over the plain,
My form with indifference see;
They are so unacquainted with man,
There tameness is shocking to me.

Religion! what treasures untold
Reside in that heavenly word!
More precious than silver or gold,
Or all that this earth can afford;

*Alexander's being left some years on this uninhabited island
rise to the popular "History of Robinson Crusoe."

But the sound of the church-going bell
These valleys and rocks never heard,
Never sigh'd at the sound of a knell,
Nor smil'd when a sabbath appear'd.

Ye winds, that have made me your sport,
Convey to this desolate shore,
Some cordial, endearing report,
Of a land I shall visit no more;
My friends do they now and then send
A wish or a thought after me?
Oh! tell me I yet have a friend.
Though a friend I'm never to see.

The sea-fowl is gone to her nest,
The beast is laid down in his lair;
Even here is a season of rest,
And I to my cabin repair.
There's mercy in every place,
And mercy, encouraging thought,
Gives even affliction a grace,
And reconciles man to his lot.

Cowper.

The rose had been wash'd, just wash'd in a shower,
Which Mary to Anna convey'd;
The plentiful moisture encumber'd the flower,
And weigh'd down its beautiful head.

The cup was all fill'd, and the leaves were all wet,
And it seem'd, to a fanciful view,
To weep for the buds it had left with regret
On the flourishing bush were it grew.

I hastily seiz'd it, unfit as it was,
For a nosegay, so dripping and drown'd,
And, swinging it rudely, too rudely, alas!
I snapp'd it—it fell to the ground!

And such, I exclaim'd, is the pitiless part
Some act by the delicate mind ;
Regardless of wringing and breaking a heart,
Already to sorrow resigned.

This elegant rose, had I shaken it less,
Might have bloom'd with its owner awhile ;
And the tear that is wip'd, with a little address,
May be follow'd perhaps by a smile.

Cooper.

LESSON XXXV.

SELECT SENTENCES.

How difficult a thing it is to persuade a man against his own interest, though he is convinced that equity is against him.

That state of life is most happy, where superfluities are not required, and necessities are not wanting.

If I am asked who is the greatest man, I answer the best; and I am required to say who is the best? I reply, he that has deserved most of his fellow creatures.

If a man has a right to be proud of anything, it is of a good action, done as it ought to be, without any base interest lurking at the bottom of it.

Though we seem grieved at the shortness of life in general, we are wishing every period of it at an end; the minor longs to be of age; then to be a man of business; then to make up an estate; then to arrive at honours; then to retire.

Not to offend, is the first step towards pleasing; to give pain is as much an offence against humanity, as

against good breeding; and surely it is as well to abstain from an action because it is sinful, as because it is unpolite.

Justice is as strictly due between neighbour nations, as between neighbour citizens; a highwayman is as much a robber, when he plunders in a gang, as when single, and a nation that makes unjust war, is only a great gang of robbers.

There is not such a mighty difference, as some men imagine, between the poor and the rich; they enjoy the same earth, the same air, and the same heavens; hunger and thirst make the poor man's meat and drink as pleasant and relishing as all the varieties which cover a rich man's table; and the labour of a poor man is more healthful, and often more pleasant, too, than the luxurious ease of the rich.

An Italian philosopher expressed, in his motto, that time was his estate; an estate, indeed, that will produce nothing without cultivation, but will always abundantly repay the labours of industry, if no part of it be suffered to lie waste, by negligence, to be overrun by noxious plants, or laid out for show, rather than for use.

It is said of one of the Earls of Dorset, that the servants used to put themselves in his way when he was in a passion, because he was sure to recompense them for any indignity he made them suffer. This is the round of a passionate man's life; he contracts debts when he is furious, which his virtue, if he have virtue, obliges him to discharge at the return of reason.

Philosophy may be defined "the knowledge of things;" the superficial observer notices the effects produced, and is satisfied; the philosopher is not satisfied till he has ascertained the cause of these effects.

The word phil-an'-thro-pist means the friend of man; *we read of Alexander the Great; we read of Peter the*

Great; but these were not philanthropists; John Howard was one; he devoted his time, his talents, his money, in endeavouring to alleviate the sufferings of his erring brethren confined in prisons.

Go to the desert, my son, observe the young stork of the wilderness; let him speak to thy heart; he beareth on his wings his aged sire, he lodgeth him in safety, and supplieth him with food.

It is an old saying "that charity begins at home;" but this is no reason it should not go abroad; a man should live in the world, as a citizen of the world; he may have a preference to the particular place or town in which he resides, but he should have a generous feeling for the welfare of the whole.

LESSON XXXVI.

JOHN.—HENRY III.—EDWARD I.

Richard I. was succeeded by his brother JOHN, the youngest son of Henry I., in the year 1199. John was opposed by the rightful heir, Arthur, the only son of Geoffrey, John's elder brother, then dead; when, war ensuing, Arthur, then only sixteen years of age, was taken prisoner, and put to death by his cruel uncle's own hands.

This base act, in addition to John's weakness, and tyr'anny over those he had in his power, so disgusted the barons, that they assembled together, and compelled him to sign the charter, known by the name of Magna Charta,* and this may be considered the great bulwark of English liberty.

* Properly Kar'ta, but frequently pronounced Charta.

The following is a specimen of John's injustice and cruelty to those placed in his power: to assist in carrying on his wars, he demanded ten thousand marks from a Jew in Bristol; being refused, he ordered one tooth to be drawn out each day, until he should comply; the Jew lost seven teeth, and then gave in, submitting to the unjust demand.

After a reign of seventeen years, John died of a fever, brought on by over exertion, and was buried at Worcester.† This worthless man was, perhaps, less regretted than any sovereign that ever swayed the English sceptre, for he does not appear to have had one redeeming good quality in his whole composition.

During John's reign, the mayor and sheriffs of London were first yearly elected.—Chimneys came into use.—Standing armies were introduced,—and the Bible was first divided into chapters and verses.

John was succeeded by his eldest son, HENRY III., in the year 1216, being only nine years of age; public affairs, during the young king's minority, were conducted by the Earl of Pembroke, a nobleman of great worth.

When Henry came of age, he proved himself to be a weak prince; he was not destitute of virtues suitable to a private station in life, but he was totally unfit for a ruler in the turbulent times in which he lived; and he disgusted his subjects, by his attachment to worthless foreigners, on whom he lavished all his favours.

He attempted to regain those dominions in France which his father had lost; but, owing to his incapacity, he entirely failed, and returned in disgrace: at home, in the latter part of his time, his government was

† Wors'ter.

despised, and robberies and excesses of all kinds, were committed with impunity.

During his reign, which continued fifty-six years, the houses in the principal streets of London were ordered to be covered with slates or tiles, instead of thatch.—Coals were first used as fuel.—Candles were first made,—and the Commons were first summoned to meet in Parliament.

Henry III. was succeeded by his eldest son, EDWARD I., in the year 1272. Edward, after having established order among his subjects at home, turned his attention to the Welsh, who had been very troublesome neighbours, and having mastered them, he annexed Wales to the English crown, and since that time it has given the title of prince to the eldest son of the reigning sovereign.

Edward also wished to subjugate Scotland to English sway, but in this he did not succeed, for the Scotch, under their celebrated chiefs, Wallace and Bruce, defended their country with great courage, and frequently gained the victory over the English.

Edward was on his road to Scotland, with an overwhelming force, intending to overrun the whole country, when he was struck by the hand of death, after reigning thirty-four years, and Scotland was saved.

Edward, in person, was tall and majestic; and his abilities, both for the cabinet and the field, were of a high order, but we must ever regard him rather as a great man, than as a good one.

LESSON XXXVII.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Frosts are highly beneficial to man; they assist in pulverizing the clods of earth, that is, in reducing them to powder, and bringing them into a proper state for receiving the seed.

If we take a piece of ca-out-chouc, or India rubber, and stretch it out, it will immediately return to its previous form; this quality is called elasticity.

Gutta percha is the dried juice of a large tree, grown in Asia; it is used for a variety of purposes, and it is said to be more durable than leather for shoe soles, besides being impervious to damp.

An optician is a person skilled in the science of vision, and the manufacturer of telescopes, microscopes, spectacles, eye-glasses, and other instruments for assisting the sight.

A barometer is an instrument for measuring the weight of the air, and to point out the changes that are likely to take place in the weather.

Hydrophobia, or the dread of water, is, perhaps, the most dreadful malady to which the human family is subject; it is caused by the bite of a mad dog.

St. Paul's cathedral was finished in the reign of Queen Anne; Sir Christopher Wren was the architect,* and although it took thirty-seven years in building, he had the satisfaction of seeing it completed.

The otter is an amphibious animal found on the banks of small rivers, subsisting entirely on fish, of which he destroys large numbers, eating only a part

* Ar-kē-tect.

the body; he is said to be amphibious, because he lives partly on land, and partly in water; otter hunting, in former times, was a favourite diversion.

The ostrich, the largest of all birds, is a native of Africa, and also of Arabia, in Asia; this wonderful bird, when fully grown, measures about seven feet in height, and runs with such speed, that his pursuers, although mounted on their swiftest horses, have some difficulty in taking him.

The ostrich is chiefly hunted for his beautiful feathers, which are very valuable, and form a considerable article of commerce to the natives.

Red, blue, and yellow are called primitive colours, because all the other colours may be formed by different mixtures of these; thus, if I wanted a purple, I should mix a blue and red together, and these would produce a purple.

Glass is a brittle, transparent, substance, made by melting flint, or sand and soda together; it is said that this valuable art was discovered by some Phœ-ni'-cian carriers of soda, who lit a fire between some lumps of this mineral, when it melted, and, mixing with the sand, produced glass.

Man differs from all other animals in his erect posture, in the beauty of his form and countenance, in his speech, and, above all, in his having a rational soul.

The plumage of our native singing birds is in general very plain and modest; having worth in themselves, they do not require a gaudy outside to recommend them to notice.

Every boy and girl has thirty-two teeth, namely, eight in-ci'sors or cutting teeth, in front; twenty grinders, or double teeth, the farthest in the head; and *four can-iné' teeth*; the can-iné' teeth are the single *ones, between the inci'sors and the grinders, and they*

are so called because they resemble those of the dog, *canis* being the Latin name for that animal.

Every hair of our heads, when viewed through a powerful microscope, is seen to be hollow, and is used for promoting perspiration so necessary for preserving our health.

A microscope is an instrument to assist our eyes in viewing small objects; thus, a fly seen through a powerful one, will appear a very large animal.

Evergreens preserve their leaves during the winter because their bark and leaves contain a great deal of oil, and this makes them proof against the cold of winter.

No animals can defend themselves against man; whatever speed they may have, whatever cunning they may exercise, whatever strength or weapons of defence they may possess, they cannot escape the wiles of man.

Cork is the bark of a tree somewhat resembling the oak, and growing in various parts of the south of Europe; we chiefly import it from Catalo'nia, in Spain.

The air we breathe is chiefly formed of two gases, namely, ni'tro-gen, called life destroying air, and ox'-y-gen, termed vital air; four parts of nitrogen, and one part of oxygen, are the proportions required to support animal life.

Charcoal is wood half burnt; in the process of preparing it, the wood is carefully covered with turf to exclude the air, it therefore only smothers or half-burns; charcoal is chiefly used where great heat is required, without smoke.

LESSON XXXVIII.

METALS.

Plat'-i-na is the heaviest of all known metals, being twenty-two times heavier than water; its colour is a light grey, and it cannot be melted without the aid of the blow-pipe; it is chiefly obtained in the Ural mountains, and is principally used for mathematical instruments, and other articles requiring great hardness.

Gold, weighing nineteen times heavier than water, is the most costly and beautiful of all the metals; it is also a perfect metal, for neither its value, nor its weight, is lessened by melting, and such is its ductility that it may be drawn out into threads much smaller than the hairs of the human head.

Gold is also so malleable that it may be beaten out into leaves so thin, that it would take three hundred thousand of them to be the thickness of an inch. The most productive gold fields at present known, are those of Australia, an English colony; and California, belonging to the United States of America.

Silver is also a perfect metal, and weighs eleven times heavier than water. Silver is found in various countries, but the greatest quantities are procured in Mexico, North America; in Peru, and at Potosi, in South America.

Besides being useful as one of our coins, Silver is extensively used for watches, tea-pots, plates, and other domestic articles, seen on the tables of the wealthy; silver is also remarkable for its ductility.

Mer'cury or quicksilver is fourteen times heavier than water; in this country it is always in a liquid state, but

in very cold climates it becomes a hard body, when it will spread out with the hammer.

Copper is a reddish metal, weighing nine times heavier than water; it is found in considerable quantities in the mines of Sweden; and, in our own country, the mines of Cornwall, and Anglesea in Wales, have been long noted.

Copper is a pretty metal when first melted, but it soon loses its brightness; the brazier forms it into a variety of useful articles, as, kettles, and large coppers; it may also be drawn out into wire of considerable fineness; bells are usually hung with copper wire.

Tin is a useful white metal weighing seven times heavier than water; not being liable to rust, it is extensively used for coating the different vessels used in cooking.

The common tin articles which we see exhibited in the tinman's shop, are not in reality tin, but made of iron rolled into thin sheets, and coated with tin; tin is highly malleable and when mixed with lead is beaten out into very thin leaves called tinfoil.

The tin mines of Cornwall have been wrought more than two thousand years, and they are still productive; the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, is entitled to a duty of four shillings upon every hundred weight obtained, that the revenue derived from these mines is considerable.

Lead, eleven times heavier than water, is a soft metal of a bluish white colour, bright when newly melted; but when exposed to the air it soon becomes dull; it is procured in the mines of Yorkshire, Cumberland, Durham, Derbyshire, and some other counties.

White lead is a heavy white powder, obtained by laying thin plate lead over heated vinegar; this has the effect of corroding the lead, and reducing it to powder, and this powder when ground with linseed oil, and

mixed with spirits of turpentine, forms white paint.

Zinc is an imperfect metal; it is seven times heavier than water, and called imperfect because it will not bear hammering; as it does not rust, it is extensively used for chimney pots, water pipes, and similar articles.

Brass is a compound metal, being formed of three parts copper, and one part zinc. Pewter is also a compound metal, being made by mixing tin and lead together; it is chiefly used for ale, wine, and spirit measures.

LESSON XXXIX.

THE LITTLE SPY.—THE RARE PLANT.

There are few things more contemptible than impertinent curiosity; Robert Lamber was much addicted to this disagreeable habit, and although his father frequently reprov'd him for giving way to it, yet it was all in vain.

In consequence of this unbecoming propensity he got the nickname of "The Little Spy," and on several occasions he met with the most mortifying insults, and other boys appeared ashamed of his company.

On one occasion he was walking down one of the streets of the town in which he lived, when he observed two women talking very earnestly together, and being anxious to know the subject of their conversation, he silently glided towards them, when one of the women suddenly turned round, and seizing him by the collar, boxed his ears well, and told him "to go home and *learn better manners.*"

But no rebuke had any effect on Robert, and nothing could overcome his desire of becoming acquainted with every person's business. He was at work one day in his little garden, when he saw his father go into the summer-house with a stranger, and shut the door close after them.

Robert, as usual, must know the nature of their business, and gliding softly to the spot, he applied his ear to a crack in the wood-work, and listened to what they were saying, but he soon felt a strange tickling in his ear, and shortly afterwards, a pain so acute, that he screamed out with agony.

His father and the stranger ran out in alarm, and seeing his sufferings to be so great, a surgeon was immediately sent for, who applied a syringe and soon brought out a large earwig which had come out of the wood and entered the ear.

Robert was now fully sensible of the impropriety of his conduct, and as he was no longer in pain, his father rejoiced at the incident, thinking it might probably be the means of his amendment.

"My reproofs" said he, "have been disregarded, but this insect has, I trust, read you a more valuable lesson; if this warning fail, some greater evil will befall you, and the contempt, and hatred of mankind, will be found to produce a sharper sting than the nip of an earwig."

From the German.

Two country girls, Bridget and Elizabeth, walked side by side, to the market of a neighbouring town, each having a large basket on her head. Bridget grumbled the whole of the way at the weight of her basket, while Elizabeth walked briskly along, without uttering a single complaint.

"I do not know what it is" said Bridget, "that

“makes you merry; your basket is as heavy as mine I am, at any rate, as strong as you, so that the load is as heavy for you as for me.”

“Before I set out” replied Elizabeth, “I furnished myself with a rare plant, which takes off half the weight of my burden, and if you were to adopt my plan, you would soon be convinced of its excellence.”

“A plant” exclaimed Bridget, “it is strange that a plant should possess such a power; I wish you would tell me where to find it?” “If you will promise not to complain any more to day, when we return in the evening I will tell you.”

Bridget agreed, and the two girls, having sold their fruit, returned together to their village; as they walked along, Bridget reminded her friend of her promise she had made, and Elizabeth told her that the plant which she meant was reared in her own bosom.

“It is a sprig of patience,” said she, “and if you apply the same remedy, you will find that it has a wonderful effect in making labour easy, burdens light, the cares and sorrows of life less grievous.”

From the Gen

LESSON XL.

MARS.—THE ATEROIDS.—JUPITER.

Mars comes the fourth in order from the sun: his planet takes his name from his blood-red colour, and being in heathen myth-ol'-o-gy, the god of war.

The orbit of Mars is one hundred and forty millions of miles from the sun, and his diameter is rather less than half of that of the earth; he makes a journey round the sun in six hundred and eighty-

days, that his year is nearly twice the length of ours, and he moves at the rate of fifty thousand miles an hour.

The body of Mars is supposed to be much the same as our earth, but with a less proportion of water; two parts out of three of the surface of the earth are water, while not more than one-third of his surface is covered with it.

This planet appears much larger at one time than he does at another, and this is easily accounted for, when we consider that in his revolution round the sun, he is at one time, one hundred and ninety millions of miles nearer the earth, than he is at another.

If Mars be peopled, the inhabitants will only enjoy about half the degree of heat that we do, on account of their greater distance from the sun; the seasons will be much the same as those of the earth, but they will be of longer duration.

In one season of his year, the northern part of his surface appears to be white, and this is thought to be caused by the accumulation of snow and ice during the winter, as this whiteness disappears in the summer.

The Asteroids are small planets which have their orbits between those of Mars and Jupiter; they have all been discovered since the year 1800.

Some imagine that these small planets are the fragments of a larger planet, which, by some terrible convulsion, has been blown asunder; what tends to strengthen this supposition is, that these asteroids are not round, like other planets, but irregular in their forms, as all fragments will naturally be.

If these be, in reality, the fragments of some larger planet, it may, perhaps, in some measure, explain the mystery of stones falling from the sky; some, indeed,

are of opinion, that these falling stones are still smaller fragments of some planet, wandering about, and occasionally brought within the influence of the earth's attraction.

That stones occasionally fall from the sky, is a fact, so well authenticated, that no one can doubt its truth; some stones have fallen which weighed nearly three hundred pounds, and others have exploded in the air, with a great noise, their contents falling in showers to the earth.

The principal of these asteroids are *Vista*, *As-tre'a*, *Juno*, *Pallas*, and *Ce'eres*, but none of these can be seen without the aid of a telescope.

The planet that comes next in order to the Asteroids, is *Jupiter*, who is probably so called from his being the chief of the planets, as, in heathen myth-ol'-o-gy, he is chief of the gods.

This majestic globe is four hundred and ninety-five millions of miles distant from the sun, and never less than four hundred millions of miles distant from the earth; his diameter is eighty-nine thousand miles, and he is equal in bulk, to fourteen hundred worlds such as we inhabit.

Jupiter is nearly twelve years in performing his journey round the sun, so that a year upon this planet is equal to twelve of our years; he moves at the rate of twenty-eight thousand miles an hour.

The appearance of *Jupiter*, to the naked eye, is very brilliant, indeed more so than that of any other planet, with the exception of *Venus*; when viewed through the telescope, he is easily distinguished from all other planets, by the broad stripes or belts, which extend across his disc or face.

Jupiter has also four satellites, or moons, which move

round his body, and, at the same time, attend him in his revolution round the sun, the same as our moon attends the earth; two of these moons are about the size of ours, one is four times as large, and the remaining one seven times.

Such is the great distance of Jupiter from the earth, that it would take four hundred and sixty years to reach him, travelling at the rate of a hundred miles an hour.

LESSON XLL

THE MILLER AND HIS SON.—A SUMMER EVENING.

As a miller and son to the market one day
Were driving their donkey along,
They agreed to walk thither on foot all the way,
That the ass might arrive fresh and strong.
They had scarcely proceeded a mile on their way,
When some trav'lers happen'd to pass;
"Mighty careful you seem, neighbour Goodall," say they,
"Of your pamper'd and indolent ass.
Methinks one of you might take a lift, at the least,
Nor a donkey sink under its load;
'Tis a comical plan that a lazy young beast
Is to choose its own pace on the road."
With this rational counsel and friendly advice
The good humour'd miller complied;
So, bidding the animal stop, in a trice
He mounted upon it to ride.

About half a mile farther, perchance, they had gone,
When some others began to deride;
And in a more saucy, impertinent tone
His hard-hearted folly to chide,

"There's a selfish, unnatural wretch, if you please,
Who lets his son wade in the mire;
While he, like an alderman, sits at his ease,
Does he merit the title of Sire?"

The kind-hearted miller dismounted again,
And lifted his son up instead;
But each fresh endeavour to please seemed in vain,
The same spiteful censures were made.

"You idle young fellow, who taught you to ride,
And canter along at this rate?
Is your poor aged father to limp by your side,
While you are to journey in state?"

"Well, my son," said the father, "I'll get up behind,
And Bodkin to market we'll ride;
May be to this plan no objection they'll find;
At all events, it can be tried."

But now one more vehement far than the rest,
The donkey espied with his load;
And with loud exclamations his wonder exprest,
As they pass'd him along on the road.

"Upon my word now, if that is not a shame
To load a dumb animal so!
I declare, if it isn't already too lame,
Another mile farther to go.

Then said one to the other, "if that be the case,
We've done the poor donkey a wrong;
Let us make amends to the creature, apace,
And bear it ourselves now along."

"Here's a novelty for you! a strange piece of fun!"
Said they who the sight chanced to see;
"Two donkeys, behold you, are carrying *one*—
The least donkey like, sure, of the three."

The complying old man would have yielded again,
But now by experience taught,
He discover'd that human opinion is vain—
Its favour too dear to be bought.

Let a conscience enlighten'd teach what should be done,
And caution us what not to do;
Instruct us what habits and customs to shun,
What course we may safely pursue.

Ellen Roberts.

How fine has the day been, how bright was the sun,
How lovely and joyful the course that he run,
Though he rose in a mist when his race he begun,
And there followed some droppings of rain!
And now the fair traveller's come to the west,
His rays are all gold, and his beauties are best;
He paints the sky gay as he sinks to his rest,
And foretells a bright rising again.

Just such is the Christian: his course he begins
Like the sun in a mist, while he mourns for his sins,
And melts into tears; then breaks out and shines,
And travels his heavenly way;
But when he comes nearer to finish his race,
Like a fine setting sun, he looks richer in grace,
And gives a sure hope at the end of his days,
Of rising in brighter array.

Watts.

LESSON XLII.

SLAVERY AND LIBERTY.—CORPORAL TRIM.—DUELS.

Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still, **SLAVERY!** still thou art a bitter draught; and though thousands in all ages have been made to drink of thee, thou art no less bitter on that account.

It is thou **LIBERTY!** thrice sweet and gracious goddess, whom all in public worship, whose taste is grateful, and ever will be so, till nature herself shall change—no tint of words can spot thy snowy mantle, or chymic power turn thy sceptre into iron.

With thee to smile upon him as he eats his crust, the swain is happier than his monarch, from whose court thou art exiled. Grant me but health, thou great Bestower of it, and give me but this fair goddess as my companion; and shower down thy mitres, if it seem good unto thy divine providence, upon those heads which are aching for them.

Pursuing these ideas, I sat down close by my table, and leaning my head upon my hand, I began to figure to myself the miseries of confinement; I was in a right frame for it, and so I gave full scope to my imagination.

I was going to begin with the millions of my fellow creatures, born to no inheritance but slavery; but finding, however affecting the picture was, that I could not bring it near me, and that the multitude of sad groups in it did but distract me, I took a single captive, and having first shut him up in his dungeon, I then looked through the twilight of his grated door to take his picture.

I beheld his body half wasted away with long expect-

ation and confinement, and felt what kind of sickness of the heart it was, which arises from hope deferred.

Upon looking nearer, I saw him pale and feverish; in thirty years the western breeze had not once fanned his blood; he had seen no sun, no moon, in all that time, nor had the voice of friend or kinsman breathed through his lattice.

His children—but here my heart began to bleed—and I was forced to go on with another part of the portrait; he was sitting upon the ground on a little straw, in the farthest part of his dungeon, which was sometimes his chair, and sometimes his bed.

A little calendar of small sticks was laid at the head, notched all over with the dismal days and nights he had passed there; he had one of those little sticks in his hand, and with a rusty nail was etching another day of misery to add to the heap.

As I darkened the little light he had, he lifted up a hopeless eye towards the door, then cast it down, shook his head, and went on with his work of affliction. I heard his chains upon his legs, as he turned his body to lay his little stick upon the bundle; he gave a deep sigh—I saw the iron enter into his soul—I burst into tears—I could not sustain the picture of confinement which my fancy had drawn.—*Sterne*.

“Pray thee, Trim,” quoth my father, “what dost thou mean by ‘honouring thy father and thy mother?’” “Allowing them, an’ please your honour, three half-pence a day out of my pay, when they grew old.” “An’ didst thou do that Trim?” said Yorick. “He did indeed,” replied my uncle Toby. “Then Trim,” said Yorick, springing out of his chair, and taking the corporal by the hand, “thou art the best commentator upon that part of the Decalogue; and I honour thee more

for it, Corporal Trim, than if thou hadst had a hand in the Talmud itself."

We read, in Swedish history, that one of its kings, determining to suppress false notions of honour, issued a severe edict against the practice of duelling. Two gentlemen, however, generals in his service, in a quarrel agreed to solicit the king's permission to decide their difference by the laws of honour.

The king consented, and said he would be present at the combat; his majesty was attended by a body of guards, and the public executioner, and before they proceeded to the onset, he told these gentlemen that they must fight till one of them died.

Then, turning to the executioner, he added, "do you immediately strike off the head of the survivor." This had the desired effect; the difference between the officers was adjusted, and no more challenges were heard of in the army.

LESSON XLIII.

EDWARD II.—EDWARD III.—RICHARD II.

Edward I. was succeeded by his eldest son, EDWARD II., in the year 1307. Edward, on ascending the throne, soon gave proofs of his total unfitness to succeed so great a monarch as his father, for he yielded himself up to the government of unprincipled favourites.

With the view of carrying out the plans of his father, he marched into Scotland, at the head of an army one

hundred thousand strong, but for want of skill and promptitude, he was completely defeated at Bannockburn, by the Scottish army, under Bruce, and he, with great difficulty, saved himself by flight.

Edward married Isabella, the daughter of the king of France, a woman naturally cruel, daring, and haughty; she, being exasperated at his weakness, went over to France, and returned, heading an army for the purpose of deposing her husband, and being joined by great numbers of the English, she succeeded in taking him prisoner.

Edward was sent from prison to prison, a wretched outcast, and the sport of his inhuman keepers, until at last, being afraid of a revolution in his favour, he was put to death, at the command of this worthless woman, by a cruel and torturing process. Thus died Edward II., after a reign of nearly twenty years.

Edward II. was succeeded by his son, EDWARD III., in the year 1327, when only in his fifteenth year; during his minority, his mother, and her accomplice, Mortimer, an unprincipled person, with whom she had long been disgracefully connected, were at the head of public affairs, but the nation, at large, became so dissatisfied with their conduct, that she was stripped of her power, and thrown into prison, and her favourite, Mortimer, executed.

When Edward succeeded to power, he invaded France, and gained some decisive victories, amongst which may be named that obtained at the battle of Cressy; in one fought by his son, the Black Prince, the French king was taken prisoner, and the Scottish king being taken about the same time, London contained two captive kings.

Edward possessed every quality necessary for governing, but mistaking empty honour for greatness, he squandered away the resources of his country in its pursuit, and after reigning fifty years, he died more admired than respected.

During his reign, gunpowder was first used in war.—Cloth weaving was introduced, also that of blankets which took their name from Thomas Blanket, of Bristol,—and clocks came into use.

Edward III. was succeeded by his grandson RICHARD II., the son of the Black Prince, in the year 1377. Richard being only eleven years of age his three uncles, the dukes of York, Lancaster, and Gloucester,* were appointed his guardians, and these three became extremely unpopular, in consequence of their laying a tax of three groats upon every person upwards of fifteen years of age.

This odious tax nearly led to a revolution, for one of the tax gatherers, in calling upon a person of the name of Wat Tyler, a blacksmith, began to behave in an improper manner to his daughter, a girl about fifteen years of age; this naturally exasperated the father, and he struck the tax gatherer dead upon the spot.

The country, at large, espoused Wat Tyler's cause and a general rising took place, when every species of excess was committed, and it would probably have been attended with the most serious consequences, had not the young king, with great presence of mind addressed the leaders of the insurrection in a conciliating manner, and promised to redress all their grievances.

This incident gave the people hopes that Richard would be a good king, but these hopes were not fulfilled for he was not only deficient in capacity and judgment

* Glos'-tet.

but he mixed with low company, and gave himself up to luxury, until at last he became so odious to his subjects, that the Duke of Lancaster became king in his place.

Richard, finding himself deserted by his subjects, threw himself upon the mercy of the duke, but without success, for he was treated with great indignity, and led from town to town amidst the scoffs of the people.

At last he was thrown into prison, when he signed away his right to the crown, and he was afterwards murdered in Pomfret castle, having reigned twenty-two years.

LESSON XLIV.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Many insects are highly useful to man; thus, the bee makes us honey, the Spanish fly is used for raising blisters, the cochineal for dying scarlet, and the silk-worm spins us silk.

It is also supposed that many insects contribute to our health, by eating up putrid substances upon the ground, which might infect the air, and render it unfit for breathing.

Rice is a nutritive grain, much cultivated in warm climates, where it forms the principal article of food for the humbler classes; it is produced in immense quantities in Asia, but the largest and best comes from Car-o-li'-na, one of the states of America.

Opium is a strong narcotic, obtained by making incisions or cuts in the head of the white poppy; the juice that oozes out, when dried, is opium; we obtain it from Turkey, and the East Indies.

Laudanum is a preparation made from opium; it is extensively used in medicine for lulling pain, and promoting sleep, but is a deadly poison, if taken in too large a quantity.

The toad, the frog, the dormouse, the bat, and many other animals, remain in a dormant, or sleeping state, during the winter; if it were not for this wise regulation, they would cease to exist, for the kind of food they require, could not be met with in the winter season.

Sometimes, when wood is burning, it makes a crackling noise, and sends out sparks with great violence; the reason is, the wood, being porous, is full of air, which expands with the heat, and not having room, it forces its way out with considerable noise.

The upper surface of leaves is, in general, smooth and glossy, to prevent water from lodging upon them, and causing them to decay; while the undersides are rough and porous, that they may imbibe the nourishment they require from the air and dew.

A balloon is a large bag, somewhat in the shape of a pear; it is made of silk, and covered with varnish, to make it air-tight; this, when inflated, or filled with a gas, about twelve times lighter than the air, rises in the same way that a cork would rise, if sunk in water.

The balloon will continue to ascend till it and the air are of the same weight, when, if allowed to remain, it would float about the same as a cloud; if the a'-er-o-naut wish to ascend still higher, he empties his bags of sand; if he wish to descend, he lets out part of the gas.

Cannel coal is a singular kind of mineral procured in the neighbourhood of Wigan, in Lancashire; it burns with a clear white flame, it will not soil the hand, and it is so hard that it will take a beautiful polish.

In bathing, a person that is stout will swim with

greater ease than one that is thin, because the fat in his body is lighter than the water, and it helps to buoy him up.

Cider is the fermented juice of apples, and perry is the fermented juice of pears; Her'e-ford-shire, Worcester-shire, and Devonshire, are the most noted counties for the production of these two beverages.

There is too much reason to fear that cannibals, or eaters of human flesh, still exist in some of the uncivilized parts of the world.

The principal duty of a Coroner, is to enquire, by a jury of neighbours, into the causes of sudden death; should it be a case of murder, and any particular person be suspected, he would issue his warrant to take him to prison, where he would remain till the assizes.

LESSON XLV.

THE HERRING.—THE WHALE.—THE BEE.

Of all the kinds of fish with which we are acquainted, the herring, as an article of food, is the most important to us; it is said to be a migrating fish, because, at a certain season of the year, it goes from one sea to another.

This useful fish is caught in immense numbers in the summer and autumnal quarters, and, after plentifully supplying our own wants, we largely export them to those countries which the herring never visits.

The herring first visits the Shetland Isles, lying north of Scotland, in the month of June; they come in *immense shoals* containing hundreds of millions;

they are commonly divided into columns of five or six miles in length, and about four miles in width.

On approaching the Isles, they divide, one part taking the eastern coast, and the other the western, and thus proceeding round the kingdom, they fill every creek and bay with food for the human body.

The pilchard is a species of herring, taken in very large numbers on the coast of Cornwall; in addition to our home consumption, this fish is a considerable article of export, and the taking and curing of it gives profitable employment to a number of hands.

The largest animal known to man is the whale, chiefly found on the coast of Greenland, a very cold country, belonging to Denmark; a full grown one will measure forty yards in length.

Whales are caught by being repeatedly struck with a kind of dart, called a harpoon, to which a small rope is attached, when they come to the surface to breathe; when weakened by the loss of blood, they are attacked with lances till they die.

Whales are chiefly caught for the sake of the oil which their blubber, or fat, yields: a good sized whale will produce oil worth more than five hundred pounds; the whale fishery formerly gave employment to a numerous body of hardy seamen, but within these late years, whales have become much scarcer, and fewer ships have been employed.

Although the whale inhabits the water, and has the appearance of a fish, and, indeed, is considered one, yet, in reality, it belongs to another class of animals.

Two important reasons may be given why this is the case: the first is, the whale is warm blooded, and all fishes are cold blooded; the second is, the whale *suckles her young*, fishes do not.

According to Linnæus, the whale belongs to that class of animals which bring forth their young alive, and suckle and protect them until they can take care of themselves.

The bee teaches us both industry and economy; she does not idle away her time, but flies from flower to flower, sucking up the sweet juices, and when she makes more honey than she wants, she does not squander it away, but lays it up for the winter.

Great regularity is seen in a hive of bees, and in this respect, it has very justly been compared to a well-governed kingdom, every bee paying the most strict obedience to the laws, and labouring for the common good.

Bee's-wax is the substance of which the comb, or cells, of bees consist; when this wax is bleached, it is made into candles, by melting it, and pouring it into leaden moulds, in the middle of which a flaxen wick has been fixed.

LESSON XLVI.

THE HONEY POT.—THE HALF-CROWN.

Children, in general, are fond of nice things, but it is not right for them to think of nothing else, and endeavour to acquire them in an improper manner. Now, Lucy Lamb was one of those girls, who are never better pleased than when they can find something to gratify their appetites.

On one occasion, her mother sent her to the store-room, to fetch some lemons, strictly charging her to touch nothing she saw there; no sooner had she opened

the door, however, than she began her search for sweet-meats, or any other dainty she could find.

Catching a glimpse of a jar, which was, in general, filled with honey, she mounted a chair, in order to reach the shelf on which it stood; the jar being empty, her mother had placed in it a large lobster, which was not yet dead.

Lucy put in her hand, expecting to get some honey, when the lobster seized it with one of its claws, and made her scream lustily for help; her mother, and the servant, hastened to her assistance, and, with some difficulty, released her hand from the grasp of the lobster, but nobody pitied her, and she was told that it was a just punishment.

The affair soon became known to her play-fellows, and many a joke was passed on the "tit-bit" she had found in the jar, and she suffered almost as much from these jokes, as she did from the pinch of the lobster.

From the German.

Among the servants of a wealthy farmer, was one named Matthew, who was often in a violent passion about trifles, and was frequently guilty of swearing at those who vexed him: his master was a good man, and he pointed out to him the sin and folly of using profane oaths, and urged him to correct so wicked a habit.

Matthew was ready to allow that passion, and swearing, gave great offence to God, but said that all his efforts to amend were fruitless. "Matthew," said his master to him one morning, "do you see this half-crown? I will make you a present of it before you go to bed, if you will not utter an oath, or make use of an angry word during the day."

It is hardly necessary to say that Matthew thanked *his master*, and made up his mind to win the money;

in vain did his fellow servants employ all their art to put him out of temper; to their great surprise, he kept a strict command over himself, and only smiled at their attempts to ruffle him.

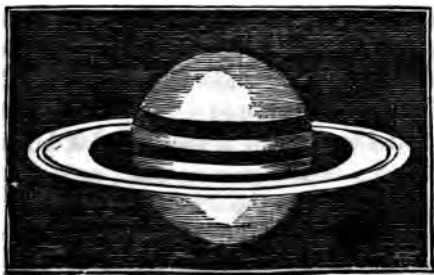
“Do you not blush,” said his master, as he gave him the half-crown at bed time—“do you not blush to think that a paltry piece of money could induce you to curb your angry temper, while the fear of God, and the respect which you owe to me, could not produce the same effect.”

Matthew felt the reproof to be just, and determined, in his own mind, to use every effort to subdue his evil nature; he did not find this an easy task, but at last his struggle was crowned with success, and he became so much altered, that his master frequently pointed him out to his younger servants, as an example worthy to be followed.—*From the German.*

LESSON XLVII.

SATURN.—URANUS.—NEPTUNE.

The planet that next comes under consideration is Sa'turn, so named after Saturn, in heathen mythology, the god of time, and the father of Jupiter.



The bulk of this planet is about a thousand times that of the earth, and his orbit is nine hundred millions of miles distant from the sun; to accomplish his revolution round that great luminary, requires thirty years, although he moves with a velocity of twenty-one thousand miles an hour.

Saturn is considered a most interesting planet, on account of the number of his moons, and the splendid rings which encircle his body; his moons are seven in number, and the one nearest to him, will appear to the inhabitants ten times as large as our moon does to us.

Two immense luminous rings entirely encircle this planet, the one being within the other; the inner one of these rings is thirty thousand miles distant from his body, and its breadth is about seventeen thousand; the breadth of the outer ring is about ten thousand miles, and the space between is supposed to be three thousand.

These rings are dark bodies, the same as Saturn himself, and they shine upon his surface with the reflected light of the sun, the same as our moon does upon the earth; they accompany the planet in his revolution round the sun, and they also revolve round him in the same time that he turns round upon his axis.

Although Saturn is at such an immense distance, he may be seen with the unaided eye, but he appears small, and shines with a feeble light; his moons and rings can only be seen by the aid of a telescope.

Saturn is more than eight hundred millions of miles distant from the earth, and he has only the ninetieth part of the light and heat of the sun that our world has, but in the nights his moons and rings must have a splendid appearance to the inhabitants.

The planet Ura'nus comes next in order after Saturn,

and is frequently called Herschel, in honour of Sir William, a most distinguished philosopher and astronomer, who first discovered this planet, in the year 1781.

This distant planet revolves round the sun, at the enormous distance of eighteen hundred millions of miles, and it takes him eighty-four years to make his vast circuit, moving at the rate of fifteen thousand miles an hour.

Uranus is about eighty-one times larger than the earth, and he can only be very dimly seen without the assistance of the telescope; the light that he receives from the sun, will only be a three hundred and sixtieth part of what the earth enjoys, yet the sun's rays are so brilliant, that the light will be fully equal to that received by the earth on a cloudy day.

One would imagine that this planet would be intensely cold, on account of his immense distance from the sun; but this may not be the case, for the heat of the sun is not entirely regulated by his distance.

Thus we have our warmest season, when we are most distant from him, and even in the hottest parts of the earth, there is perpetual snow on mountains three miles above the level of the sea.

Uranus has six sat'ellites or moons, the size of which has not been ascertained, but it is thought that they are considerably larger than our moon.

The orbit of Neptune is still farther from the sun than that of Saturn, but as this planet has only been discovered within these late years, much is not known respecting him.

LESSON XLVIII.

A LAW REPORT.—THE SPIDER AND THE FLY.

Between Nose and Eyes a strange contest arose,
The spectacles set them unhappily wrong;
The point in dispute was, as all the world knows,
To which the said spectacles ought to belong.

So the tongue was the lawyer, and argued the cause
With a great deal of skill, and a wig full of learning,
While chief baron Ear sat to balance the laws,
So famed for his talent in nicely discerning.

"In behalf of the Nose it will quickly appear,
And your lordship," he said, "will undoubtedly find,
That Nose has had spectacles always in wear,
Which amounts to possession, time out of mind."

Then holding the spectacles up to the court—
"Your lordship observes they are made with a straddle,
As wide as the ridge of the nose is; in short,
Designed to sit close to it, just like a saddle.—

Again, would your lordship a moment suppose,
('Tis a case that has happen'd, and may do again,)
That the visage or countenance had not a Nose,
Pray who would, or who could, wear spectacles then?

On the whole it appears, and my argument shows,
With a reasoning the court will not ever condemn,
That the spectacles plainly were made for the Nose,
And the nose was as plainly intended for them."—

Then shifting his side, (as a lawyer knows how,)
He pleaded again in behalf of the Eyes;
But what were his arguments, few people know,
For the court did not think they were equally wide.—

So his lordship decreed, with a grave, solemn tone,
Decisive and clear, without one *if* or *but*—
That, “whenever the Nose put his spectacles on,
By day-light or candle-light—Eyes should be shut.”
Cowper.

Fresh was the breath of morn; the busy breeze,
As poets tell us, whispered through the trees,
And swept the dew-clad blooms with wings so light;
Phœbus* got up and made a blazing fire,
That gilded every country house and spire,
And, smiling, put on his best looks so bright.

On this fair morn, a spider, who had set,
To catch a breakfast, his old waving net
With curious art, upon a spangled thorn;
At length, with gravely-squinting, longing eye,
Near him beheld a pretty, plump, young fly,
Humming her little orisons to morn.

“Good morrow, dear Miss Fly!” (quoth gallant Grim;)
“Good morrow, Sir!” (replied Miss Fly to him;)
“Walk in Miss, pray, and see what I am about;”
“I’m much obliged to you, Sir,” (Miss Fly rejoined.)
“My eyes are both very good, I find,
That I can plainly see the whole without.”

“Fine weather Miss,” “Yes very, very fine”
Quoth Miss, “prodigious fine, indeed!”
“But why so coy (quoth Grim) that you decline
To put within my bower your pretty head?”
“Tis simply this,” quoth cautious Miss,
“I fear you’d like my pretty head so well,”
You’d keep it for yourself, Sir,—who can tell?”

* The Sun.

"Then let me squeeze your lovely hand, my dear,
And prove that all your fears are foolish, vain,"

"I've a sore finger, Sir, nay more, I fear
You really would not let it go again."

"Poh, poh! child, pray dismiss your idle dread,
I would not hurt a hair of that sweet head:

Well then, with one kind kiss of friendship meet me."

"La, Sir," (quoth Miss with seeming artless tongue,)

"I fear our salutation would be long;

So loving, too, I fear that you would eat me."

So saying, with a smile she left the rogue,

To weave more lines of death, and plan for prog.

Dr. Wolcot.

LESSON XLIX.

WHEAT.—OATS.—BARLEY.—RYE.

Every thing that has life requires support, and among the rest man; our bodies are continually wasting away, and if we did not take food, we should soon be in the grave.

Our skins are full of little apertures or openings called pores, so small that they cannot be seen with the naked eye; through these pores a watery humour, that was once blood, is continually passing, and this process used by nature is called perspiration.

To fill up the void, caused by perspiration, we take food, the nourishing parts of which, are, by wonderful contrivances changed into a white liquid called chyle,* which, after undergoing other processes, is conducted to the blood with which it mixes.

The different productions which constitute our diet,

* Kile.

are the flesh of animals, seeds or grain, vegetables, and fruits, and, of these corn or grain appears to be the most essential to our comfort.

Bread, frequently called "the staff of life," in this country, is chiefly made of flour, that is, of wheat ground to powder; wheat is an annual plant extensively cultivated in England; it is called an annual, because it only continues one year, that is, the seed is sown, it springs up, ripens, and then dies, all within the twelve months.

In order to produce wheat, the ground is ploughed, and the soil made fine by frequent harrowings, then the seed is sown, much the same as we sow garden seeds, and it is covered by means of the harrow, a wooden frame set with long iron teeth, and drawn by horses.

The harrow is to the field what the rake is to the garden; when the seed is covered with the soil, it strikes root, and springs up, requiring not much care till the autumn, when it is cut down, sometimes with a scythe, sometimes with a machine*, but perhaps, more frequently by the reapers, who use a hook or sickle, that is a kind of knife in the form of a bow.

When the wheat is cut down, it is tied up in bundles called sheaves, and allowed to remain in the field till perfectly dry, when it is carted home and piled up in stacks until it is required for use.

When wanted for use or sale, it is threshed out, that is, the corn is separated from the straw, sometimes by labourers with instruments called flails, but more frequently by means of a threshing machine, turned by horses or steam.

The chaff or outward covering is taken out by the winnowing machine; then the wheat passes into the miller's hands, who converts it into meal; this is done by making the grains of wheat drop between two large

* Ma-cheen.

round stones, the upper one of which turns round, and crushes or grinds it into powder.

The meal is then sifted or dressed, that is, all the coarse parts are taken out, and the flour is ready for the baker, who mixes it with water, yeast, and a little salt, and when the paste has sufficiently fermented, it is formed into loaves and baked.

The other grains cultivated in this country are oats, barley, and rye : oats are chiefly used in feeding horses, and they are ascertained to impart more strength to them, than any other grain : in Scotland and some of the English northern counties, oats are ground into oatmeal, and made into bread, that is, thin cakes called oaten or haver cakes.

Barley is very extensively cultivated for the purpose of making into malt, used in brewing ale and porter, and in distilling British spirits ; it is also used for fattening pigs and poultry ; when deprived of its outer skin it becomes what is called Scotch barley, and when the inner skin is also stripped off, it is pearl barley, much used in broth, stews, and gruel.

Rye is not so much cultivated as the other grains, but in the North it is frequently grown amongst wheat, and together they are called meslin, which makes a most wholesome brown bread ; in some parts of the country, rye is sown in the autumn to furnish green food for the cattle and sheep in the spring.

LESSON L.

HENRY IV.—HENRY V.—HENRY VI.

Richard II. was succeeded by HENRY IV, surnamed *Bolingbroke*, in the year 1399. Henry, not being the

nearest to the crown, soon found out that the throne of a usurper is no comfortable seat; numerous conspiracies were formed against him, and although he succeeded in crushing them, yet it was not without the loss of much blood.

A remarkable instance of independence in a judge occurred in this reign: one of the dissolute companions of Prince Henry, the king's eldest son, was found guilty of some excess, when Sir William Gascoigne, the Lord Chief Justice, committed him to prison; this so incensed the young prince, that in the heat of the moment, he struck the venerable judge in open court, who, in return, ordered him to prison.

The prince immediately saw the glaring impropriety of his conduct, and modestly submitted to the punishment.

When all the circumstances were related to the king, he exclaimed, "Happy is the king who has a magistrate bold enough to execute justice on such an offender, and yet more happy, in being the father of a son, who, having erred, feels himself amenable to the laws of his country."

Henry conducted the public affairs of his kingdom with great prudence, and had he lawfully succeeded to the throne, he would have been a popular monarch; after a short reign of thirteen years, he was taken off by fits, to which he had, for some time been subject.

Henry IV. was succeeded by his eldest son, HENRY V., in the year 1413. On Henry's ascending the throne, one of his first acts was to call together his former dissolute companions, and to exhort them to change their manner of life, promising them his support if they conducted themselves with discretion.

He treated the venerable judge, who had committed him to prison, with the most marked attention, and took

him into his confidence; he also placed the other faithful servants of his father in offices of the highest trust.

Henry, knowing that France was involved in great internal troubles, took the opportunity of invading that country with a large army, and being successful in many battles, he managed by negotiations, to be elected heir to the monarchy, having first married Catharine, the king's daughter.

But such is the uncertainty of human projects, that he was seized with a fistula, which soon terminated in death, after a reign of nine years. During this reign flourished the celebrated Sir Richard Whittington "thrice Lord Mayor of London."

Henry, in his person, was tall and graceful, and possessed of great abilities, but some cruelties of which he was guilty, will ever leave a blot upon his memory; amongst these may be named, his causing Lord Cobham to be roasted alive on account of his religious opinions.

Henry V. was succeeded by his son HENRY VI. when not yet twelve months old, in the year 1422. His uncle, the Duke of Bedford, an able and accomplished prince, was placed at the head of affairs during the young king's minority.

The great object of the duke's desire was the complete subjugation of France to English rule, and when this appeared to be nearly accomplished, all his plans were frustrated by a single circumstance, namely, the fanatic bravery of a country girl, named, Joan of Arc, the celebrated Maid of Orleans.

Believing that she had a sacred mission from Heaven, to save her country, the French soldiers placed under her directions, fought with the most enthusiastic bravery, and victory followed victory, until all our possessions in France were lost, with the exception of Calais.

When Henry arrived at man's estate he gave so many

proofs of his incapacity for ruling, that Richard, Duke of York, in reality the rightful king, secretly aspired to the throne, and thus began the contests between the houses of York and Lancaster, which for a number of years deluged the country with blood.

Richard, in carrying out his plans, was slain in battle, and his son Edward became the claimant; after a great deal of fighting between the two parties, Edward was successful, and Henry being taken prisoner, was confined in the Tower of London, where he was afterwards murdered, after a reign of thirty-eight years.

LESSON LI.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

The swallow is a migrating bird, leaving us in the autumn, and returning again in the spring, in time to build its nest; it subsists altogether on insects, caught in the air while flying.

Were the swallow to remain here in winter, it would perish from the want of food; therefore, it is furnished with instinct, which guides it to warmer climates, where insects are not cut off by the cold.

Nature has furnished fishes with an air bladder which they can expand or contract at pleasure—when they expand it they are lighter than the water; when they contract it, they are heavier, and it is this that enables them to rise or fall with so much ease.

The surface of the globe, as far as we can ascertain, consists of minerals, earths, vegetables, and animals, and in these, changes are continually taking place—minerals.

by the action of the air, become earths, and these earths produce vegetables, the natural food of animals.

These vegetables and animals, having performed the duties assigned to them, return their parts and bodies to the earth; these when again converted into earth, reproduce vegetables, serving as food for a new generation of animals; thus every thing in nature is continually undergoing those changes necessary for the support of animal life.

Wind is the atmosphere or air, put in motion; winds are useful to man; they carry away smoke and impure air; they bring clouds and showers to water the ground; they fill the sails of ships, and waft them across the ocean to distant countries, and they turn the sails of the windmill that grinds our corn.

Hurricanes or whirlwinds are common in some hot countries, particularly in the West Indies, where they frequently do great injury, blowing down houses, tearing trees up by the roots, and completely destroying the crops that have not been gathered in.

Volcanoes, or burning mountains, are such as occasionally vomit forth fire, flame, ashes, cinders, and above all, a substance called lava; the principal volcanoes in Europe, are Etna, in Sicily; Vesuvius, in Naples; and Hecla, in the island of Iceland.

In the eruptions of Etna and Vesuvius, many towns and villages have been totally destroyed, and vast tracts of land rendered useless by the fiery floods of lava, which ran down the sides of these mountains.

Self preservation is the first law of nature, and every animal when in danger, uses some particular means to evade it; thus, the hare depends upon her speed, the rabbit makes to her burrow under ground, the hedgehog rolls itself up like a ball, and the frog, on the least *alarm, leaps into the water.*

The windows of our apartments, in the winter season, are sometimes covered with rime frost; the reason is, the warm air of the room being full of vapour, is condensed, or changed into water, when it comes in contact with the cold glass, and if the cold be sufficiently severe, that water is turned into ice, and appears in the form of rime frost.

Sound is air moving in small waves against the ear; if I throw a stone into water, the water at the surface will move in little circular waves, and the circles will grow larger and larger; when the church clock strikes, it makes the air around to move in circular waves, just as the water does when a stone is thrown into it.

The loadstone is a mineral which possesses the singular property of pointing north and south when balanced upon a pivot; it is this property which makes it so valuable to mariners in conducting ships from one country to another.

LESSON LII.

WINES.—SPIRITS.—COTTON.

Wine is the juice of grapes, or of some other fruit, fermented: the wines which we import from other countries, called foreign wines, are made altogether from grapes.

Wines differ in colour, because the grapes from which they are made, materially differ in that respect, but when the wine made from red grapes is fermented with the skins, it is red, and when the skins are previously taken out, it is light coloured.

The wine most extensively used in this country is

port, which takes its name from Oporto, a large town in Portugal: sherry is a strong white wine imported from Xeres,* a city of Spain; Madeira wine is produced in the island of Madeira, and also in the Canary Islands.

Champagne† is a fine French wine, of which there are two kinds, the one called *still*, and the other *sparkling*; the difference is, the *still* has undergone the process of fermentation before it is bottled, the *sparkling* is bottled while still in a fermenting state.

British wines are such as are made in Great Britain; many of these are made from raisins, and flavoured to imitate foreign wines; as these only pay a small duty, they are sold at a much lower price than those we import, but they are *very* inferior in quality.

The difference between wines and spirits is this: wines are fermented; spirits are distilled from some liquor previously fermented.

In distilling spirits, the liquid previously fermented, is made to boil, when its spirituous part is the first to fly off in vapour; this vapour, being conducted in a pipe, called a worm, through a large body of cold water, is condensed into a liquid, and this liquid is spirit.

Cognac‡ brandy is a spirit distilled from such French wines as are unfit for exportation; if this spirit were re-distilled, it would be rectified spirits of wine.

Gene'va, or Holland's gin, is a strong spirit made from grain, and flavoured with the juniper berry: rum is distilled from molasses, a refuse obtained in the process of making sugar from the juice of the sugar cane: we import rum from Jamai'ca, and the other West India Islands.

British spirits are those we make at home; they are gin, brandy, and whisky, and distilled from barley or

* Ze-res. † Sham-pain'. ‡ Cone-yack.

malt, but differently flavoured; these may also be obtained from any other grain, or from sugar, treacle, potatoes, and some other vegetables.

All spirits, when they come from the still, are of the same colour, namely, that of water; gin and whisky are allowed to remain that colour, while brandy is coloured with burnt sugar, or some other preparation.

Great Britain is the greatest manufacturing country in the world, and the material that employs the greatest number of hands is cotton, a downy substance contained in the pod of the cotton plant.

This country not being warm enough for the production of this useful article, we have it all to import, and the chief supply comes from the southern parts of the United States of America.

The great seats of our cotton manufacturies are Manchester, and its surrounding towns, Bolton, Preston, Oldham, Ashton, Blackburn, Stockport, and Wigan, most of which places owe their rise to the single article cotton.

After supplying our own wants, we export our cotton fabrics very largely to almost every country in the world, and, amongst the rest, to the very places from which we brought the raw material.

LESSON LIII.

THE GENTLEMAN AND THE BASKETMAKER.

There was, in a distant part of the world, a rich man, who lived in a fine house, and spent his whole time in eating, drinking, and amusing himself; he was excessively proud, and overbearing, and thought he had a

right to command all the neighbourhood, and that the poor were only born to serve and obey him.

Near this rich man's house, there lived an honest and industrious poor man, who gained his livelihood by making little baskets out of dried reeds, which grew upon a piece of marshy ground, close to his cottage.

Although he was obliged to labour from morning till night, to obtain a scanty living, yet he was always happy, cheerful, and contented; besides this, he was a well-disposed man, honest in his dealings, always spoke the truth, and was much respected by his neighbours.

The rich man frequently passed by the cottage of the poor basketmaker, who was always sitting at the door, singing over his work, and this provoked the gentleman in no little degree.

"What!" said he, "shall a low born peasant, that weaves bulrushes for a scanty subsistence, be always happy and pleased, while I, who am a gentleman, possessed of riches and power, and of more consequence than a thousand reptiles like him, am always melancholy and discontented?"

This gave him so much uneasiness, that at last he determined to punish the basketmaker for being happier than himself; with this wicked design he gave orders to his servants to set fire to the rushes that surrounded the poor man's house.

It being the summer season, and the weather, in that country, extremely hot, the fire soon spread over the whole marsh, and not only consumed all the rushes, but extended to the cottage itself, and the basketmaker had considerable difficulty in saving his own life.

He waited upon the rich man, who treated him with great contempt, and would not give him any redress, he therefore set out on foot, and, after a few day's hard *walking*, he arrived at the court of the chief magistrate

of that country, to whom, with many tears, he told his pitiful case.

The magistrate, who was a good and just man, immediately ordered the rich man to be sent for, and brought before him, and when he found he could not deny the wicked act of which he was accused, he commanded both him and the basketmaker to be put on board a ship, and carried to a distant country, inhabited by savages.

As soon as they were set on shore, the sailors left them, agreeably to their orders, and the inhabitants of the country came round them in great numbers.

The rich man, seeing himself thus exposed, and without assistance, began to lament, and wring his hands, in the most abject manner, but the basketmaker kept up his spirits, and made signs to the savages that he was their friend, and was willing to work for them, and be their servant.

The savages set them to work, and the poor man, who was strong and active, and accustomed to labour, soon finished his part, while the rich man, whose limbs were tender and delicate, had made very little progress.

The savages saw that the basketmaker would be very useful to them, and they presented him with a large portion of fish, and several of their choicest roots; but thinking the rich man would be of very little use, they scarcely allowed him sufficient to support life.

The next day they were set to work again, when the basketmaker had the same advantage over his companion, and he was kindly treated by the natives, while they showed every mark of contempt towards the gentleman, whose delicate and luxurious habits had rendered him very unfit for labour.

To be continued.

LESSON LIV.

THE FIXED STARS.—THE MILKY WAY.

By the fixed stars we mean those that shine with an intense twinkling lustre; they are called *fixed*, because they do not appear to change their places, with respect to each other, that is, they appear at the same distance from the other fixed stars near them, that they did a hundred years ago, and in all probability the same they will a hundred years hence.

When the stars begin to be visible to us in the evening we see the brightest the first, and we perhaps naturally conclude, that these are the largest, but this is by no means the case, for the fixed stars are bright and dim in proportion to their nearness or distance.

The truth of this we cannot doubt when we view things that are familiar to us, thus a balloon, very high up in the air, appears like a dark speck, while viewed near at hand, it would be an object of considerable magnitude.

The fixed stars shine with their own light the same as the sun, and the prevailing opinion is, that they are suns to other worlds which move round them, in the same way that our planetary bodies move round the sun.

The distance of the fixed stars is so great that no means can be used to ascertain it, but the nearest one, Sirius, cannot be less than twenty billions of miles distant, and it would take a cannon ball more than four millions of years to reach it, moving at the uniform rate of five hundred miles an hour.

It is supposed that none of these stars, are smaller

than the sun, and it has been estimated that some of them are a great deal larger; these stars are classed according to their apparent size or brilliancy.

The most brilliant are called stars of the first magnitude; those a little less brilliant, of the second magnitude, and so on to the sixth, when they can no longer be seen with the unaided eye.

In glancing up at the heavens on a winter evening, the number of stars appears great, but it is ascertained that few above a thousand can be seen with the eye alone, but if a powerful telescope be used, they may be seen in countless millions, filling infinite space.

The stars appear to move from the east to the west, and this is clearly seen, by taking notice of some particular stars in the early part of the evening, and then looking at them two or three hours later.

It is perhaps, hardly necessary to inform the young reader, that the stars only *apparently* move, for they are stationary, and that it is the earth which is turning upon its axis from west to east.

Stars are above us in the day the same as in the night, but we cannot see them on account of the stronger light of the sun; this may be made plainer by supposing that all the streets of a large town were lighted with gas while the sun shone.

Persons passing by would not see the light arising from the gas, because the superior brilliancy of the sun's rays would completely obscure its feeble light, and thus it is that the stars cannot be seen in the day time.

We cannot see so many stars when the moon shines brightly, as when we have no moon, because the light of the moon obscures the light of the smaller stars; we also see fewer stars in summer than in winter, because in summer, for about three months, it is never completely dark, there being twilight during the whole

night, and this obscures the light of the more distant stars.

The earth, in her journey round the sun, is one hundred and ninety millions of miles nearer some of the fixed stars at one time, than at another, yet it makes no difference in their apparent size, even when viewed through a powerful telescope; this of itself is a convincing proof of their amazing distance.

The Gal'-ax-y or Milky Way, is a kind of luminous band, somewhat like a white vapour, which stretches across the sky from hor-i'-zon to horizon, and is frequently seen in a clear frosty night, when we have no moon; this is ascertained to consist entirely of stars, scattered by millions, like dust, on the dark ground of the heavens.

LESSON LV.

THE VILLAGE PASTOR.—THE VILLAGE MASTER.—

THE OLD MAN'S COMFORTS.

Near yonder copse, where once the garden smil'd,
And still where many a garden flow'r grows wild,
There, where a few torn shrubs the place disclose,
The village preacher's modest mansion rose.
A man he was to all the country dear,
And passing rich with forty pounds a year:
Remote from towns he ran his godly race,
Nor e'er had chang'd, nor wish'd to change, his place.
Unskilful he to fawn, or seek for pow'r,
By doctrines fashion'd to the varying hour;
Far other aims his heart had learn'd to prize,
More bent to raise the wretched than to rise.
His house was known to all the vagrant train;

He chid their wand'rings, but relieved their pain.
The long remember'd beggar was his guest,
Whose beard descending swept his aged breast;
The ruin'd spendthrift, now no longer proud,
Claim'd kindred there, and had his claims allow'd;
The broken soldier, kindly bade to stay,
Sat by his fire, and talk'd the night away;
Wept o'er his wounds, or tales of sorrow done,
Shoulder'd his crutch, and show'd how fields were won.
Pleas'd with his guests, the good man learn'd to glow,
And quite forgot their vices in their woe;
Careless their merits, or their faults to scan,
His pity gave ere charity began.
At church, with meek, and unaffected grace,
His looks adorn'd the venerable place,
Truth from his lips prevail'd with double sway;
And fools, who came to scoff, remain'd to pray.
The service past, around the pious man,
With ready zeal, each honest rustic ran:
E'en children follow'd with endearing wile,
And pluck'd his gown, to share the good man's smile,
His ready smile a parent's warmth express'd,
Their welfare pleased him, and their cares distress'd,
To them his heart, his love, his griefs were giv'n,
But all his serious thoughts had rest in heaven;
As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm,
Tho' round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head.

Goldsmith.

Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way,
With blossom furze unprofitably gay,
There, in his noisy mansion skill'd to rule,
The village master taught his little school.

A man severe he was, and stern to view ;
I knew him well, and ev'ry truant knew.
Well had the boding tremblers learn'd to trace,
The day's disasters in his morning face ;
Full well they laugh'd, with counterfeited glee,
At all his jokes, for many a joke had he ;
Full well the busy whisper circling round,
Convey'd the dismal tidings when he frown'd.
Yet he was kind ; or, if severe in aught,
The love he bore to learning was his fault.
The village all declar'd how much he knew ;
'Twas certain he could write, and cipher too ;
Lands he could measure, terms and tides presage ;
And e'en the story ran that he could gauge.
In arguing, too, the parson owned his skill,
For e'en tho' vanquish'd, he could argue still ;
While words of learned length, and thund'ring sound,
Amaz'd the gazing rustics rang'd around ;
And still they gaz'd, and still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew.
But past is all his fame ; the very spot
Where many a time he triumph'd is forgot.

Goldsmith.

"You are old, Father William," the young man cried,

"The few locks which are left you are grey ;
You are hale, Father William, a hearty old man ;
Now tell me the reason, I pray ?"

"In the days of my youth," Father William replied,

"I remember'd that youth would fly fast,
I abus'd not my health and my vigour at first,
That I never might need them at last."

"You are old, Father William," the young man cried,

"And pleasures with youth pass away,

And yet you lament not the days that are gone,
Now tell me the reason, I pray?"

"In the days of my youth," Father William replied,
"I remember'd that youth would not last;
I thought of the future, whatever I did,
That I never might grieve for the past."

"You are old, Father William," the young man cried,
"And life must be hastening away;
You are cheerful, and love to converse upon death;
Now tell me the reason I pray?"

"I'm cheerful, young man," Father William replied,
"Let the cause thy attention engage;
In the days of my youth, I remember'd my God!
And He hath not forgotten my age!"

Southey.

LESSON LVI.

JESUS FOUND AMONG THE DOCTORS IN THE TEMPLE.

Some centuries ago, a large, a very large company were travelling northward, in early summer, through a lovely country, whose hills and valleys were clothed with the fig-tree, the olive, and the vine.

They journeyed slowly and without anxiety or care, for their route lay through a quiet land, the abode of peace and plenty; friends and acquaintances were mingled together in groups, as accident, or inclination might dictate, until the sun went down, and the approach of evening warned them to make preparations for rest.

While the various families were drawing off together for this purpose, the attention and sympathy of the

multitude were excited by the anxious looks and eager enquiries of a female, who was passing from group to group, with sorrow and agitation painted on her countenance.

It was a mother, who could not find her son; it was her only son, and one to whom, from peculiar circumstances, she was very strongly attached.

He had never disobeyed her—he had never given her unnecessary trouble, and the uncommon maturity of his mental and moral powers had led her to trust him much more to himself, than in any other case would be justifiable.

He was twelve years old, and she supposed that he had been safe in company; but now night had come, and she could not find him; she went anxiously and sorrowfully from family to family, and from friend to friend, enquiring, with deep solicitude, "Have you seen my son?"

He was not to be found; no one had seen him, and the anxious parents left their company, and, enquiring carefully by the way, went slowly back to the city from which they had come.

The city was in the midst of a country of mountains and valleys; dark groves upon the summits crowned the richly cultivated fields, which adorned their sides; the road wound along glens and vales, sharing the passage with the streams, which flowed towards a neighbouring sea.

The city itself spread its edifices over the broad surface of a hill, one extremity of which was crowned with the spacious walls and colonnades of a temple, rising one above another; the whole pile beaming in the setting sun, as these anxious parents approached it, in all the dazzling whiteness of marble, and splendour of gold.

The parents, however, could not think much about the scene before them;—they had lost their son; with what anxious and fruitless search they spent the evening and the following morning, we do not know; they at last, however, ascended to the temple itself.

They passed from court to court, now going up the broad flight of steps, which led from one to the other; now walking under a lofty colonnade, and now traversing a paved and ornamented area.

At last, in a public part of the edifice, they found a group collected round a boy, and apparently listening to what he was saying; the feeling, with which they witnessed this scene, was that of mingled interest, curiosity, and surprise.

It was their son; his uncommon mental and moral maturity had shown itself to the learned doctors around him, and they were deeply interested in his questions and replies; his mother did not reproach him; she could not reproach one who had been such a son; but she asked him why he had staid behind; “behold,” she added, “thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.”

His reply was deep and mysterious; “How is it that ye sought me? Knew ye not, that I must be about my father’s business?” They understood not the saying, which he spake, but his mother “laid up all these words in her heart.” And the child, Jesus, went down to Nazareth with them and was subject unto them.—*Abbott.*

LESSON LVII.

EDWARD IV.—EDWARD V.—RICHARD III.—

HENRY VII.

Henry VI. was succeeded by EDWARD IV., a

descendant of Edward III., and the real heir to the crown, in the year 1461. Edward did not enjoy his newly acquired honours in peace, for Margaret, the wife of Henry, was still able to bring an army into the field, when many hotly contested battles were fought, but at last he remained in quiet possession of his throne.

Edward attempted to regain the dominions his predecessors had lost in France, but giving way to pleasure, instead of prosecuting the war, he returned to London, without accomplishing his object.

At home he became very unpopular; in many instances he acted with great cruelty, and gave himself up almost entirely to pleasures, and these often of an immoral description; for a trifling offence, he condemned his brother, the Duke of Clarence, to die, when, being allowed to choose the manner of his death, he was, at his own request, drowned in a butt of malmsey wine.

Edward reigned twenty-two years; during his reign, Printing was introduced by Caxton, a mercer, in London.—Yew trees were ordered to be cultivated in church yards, for making bows.—Thomas Parr, a native of Shropshire, died at the great age of one hundred and fifty years, having lived in the reigns of ten sovereigns.

Edward IV. was succeeded by his eldest son, EDWARD V., in the year 1483, when only twelve years of age, his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester,* being appointed protector during his minority; but he abused this sacred trust, in the most shameful and cruel manner, and contrived, himself, to ascend the throne.

The young king, and his brother, were smothered, by command of their inhuman uncle. In making some alterations in the Tower, in the reign of Charles II., their bodies were discovered in a wooden chest, and, by

* Glos'-ter.

orders of the king, they were removed to Westminster, and buried in a suitable manner.

Edward V. was succeeded by his uncle RICHARD III., in the year 1483. When Richard had thus attained the great object of his ambition, he was far from being happy; there is no rest for the murderer; he lived in continual dread of conspiracies, and in the nights, it is said, he was disturbed by the most dreadful dreams.

Richard did not long enjoy his basely acquired honours, for the Earl of Richmond, a descendant of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, entered the country with the view of dethroning him, and being joined by great numbers, he advanced till he met with Richard, who had assembled an army to oppose him.

The dreadful conflict took place at Bosworth, in Leicestershire,* when Richard was slain, after fighting with a courage deserving a better cause, and Richmond was saluted king. Richard's reign only continued two years.

Richard III. was succeeded by the Earl of Richmond, under the title of HENRY VII., in the year 1485. On ascending the throne, Henry's first care was to obtain the hand of Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward IV., thus uniting the interests of the two houses of York and Lancaster, and putting an end to the dreadful civil wars that had prevailed for many years.

In these unnatural conflicts, in which brother frequently fought against brother, upwards of one hundred thousand persons were slain, and amongst these were sixty princes, and half of the nobility of the land.

In consequence of Henry's imperfect title to the crown, many conspiracies were formed against him,

* Les'-ter-sher.

but these, by his prudence, were put down; his ruling passion was avarice, and this he carried to such an extreme, that at the end of his reign, he left behind him nearly two millions of pounds, an immense sum in those days.

During Henry's reign, which continued twenty-three years, America was discovered by Columbus.—The Cape of Good Hope was first doubled, and Shillings were first coined.

LESSON LVIII.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Architecture* means the art of building, but it is more particularly applied to building with a certain degree of art, elegance, and taste, so as to afford accommodation, and excite sensations of pleasure and satisfaction in the beholder.

All great civilized nations have been desirous to erect magnificent buildings for the purposes of public worship, the administration of government, and other national purposes.

The tides in the Med-i-ter-ra'-ne-an and Baltic seas are scarcely perceptible; all the water that can be attracted by the narrow entrances of Gibraltar and the Sound, within six hours, is not sufficient to occasion a visible rise in those seas; and, in like manner, all which could flow out in six hours, is not sufficient to cause any perceptible fall.

Lightning is electric fluid passing from one cloud to another, and thunder is the noise made by it in its passage; we generally see the lightning before we hear

* Ar'-ke-tek-sheer.

the report, because light moves with inconceivable quickness, while sound travels much more slowly.

When a thunder cloud is very near, the thunder will immediately follow the lightning, and then there may be some slight degree of danger, and if we are travelling, it is safer to keep on the public road, than to take shelter under trees, which are frequently shivered to pieces.

We may at any time know the distance of a thunder cloud, by observing how many seconds, or how many beats of the pulse, intervene between the lightning and the thunder; if as many as five, we may conclude the distance to be a mile, and if ten, it will be two miles.

Although lightning is sometimes attended with fatal results, yet it is beneficial to man; it consumes hurtful vapours, promotes the circulation of the air, and frequently brings rain when much wanted.

The cuckoo is a migrating bird, and arrives in England about the end of April, when we hear its well-known note; it takes its departure in the beginning of autumn, as soon as the young are able to bear the fatigue of their flight.

The humming bird, so called from the humming noise it makes with its wings, is the least of all birds; there are many different species; the smallest is about the size of a humble bee, and its feathers are beautifully variegated.

Humming birds are found in great numbers in South America, and the West Indies; their food is chiefly the juice of flowers, which they extract by means of their bills.

Foxes are still numerous in England, and are not extirpated on account of the diversion they afford in hunting; this country formerly had wolves, bears, and wild swine, but now the only wild animals found are foxes, deer, polecats, wild cats, hares, rabbits, squirrels,

otters, badgers, hedgehogs, weasels, moles, rats, and mice.

Naturalists class a great number of animals under the genus felis, or cat kind, from their great resemblance in form and habits, as, the lion, the tiger, the panther, the leopard, the lynx, the ounce, and many others.

The le'-ver is the foundation of all the mechanical powers for raising weights; any thing long, that will not bend, may be used as a lever—the poker is one.

Levers are used for raising heavy bodies; thus, in a stone quarry, we see a workman move a heavy block of stone, which would require a number of hands to accomplish, if no lever were used.

LESSON LIX.

CLIMATE.—RAIN.

Great Britain is proverbial for the uncertainty of its weather; the reason why it is more uncertain than the other countries of Europe, is, because it is an island, and the weather on islands is usually more changeable than it is on large continents.

This fickleness in the climate is, upon the whole, an advantage rather than a disadvantage, for during the season of vegetation, our fields are generally in a growing state; and have often a beautiful verdant appearance, at the very time that those upon the neighbouring continent, are burnt up with drought.

In this country we are bountifully supplied with one of the first necessities of life, namely, water; we obtain it from springs, and wells; from brooks and rivers, and *from the clouds* when it rains.

Millions of tons of water are hourly taken up in vapour from the ocean, by the joint action of the wind and the sun, and this vapour, being lighter than the atmosphere, continues to rise till it meets with colder air, when it appears in the form of clouds, which are wafted about by every wind that blows.

These clouds become so heavy with vapour, that the air will no longer bear them up, when the moist particles run together, and fall down in fine drops, which we call rain.

When rain falls, part of it is required to carry on vegetation, and part of it runs down the sides of hills, and forms little brooks, and these in their progress meet with other brooks, and these uniting, they continue to increase until they become a river, and this at last makes its way to the sea, to be again taken up in vapour, and supply us with more rain; thus water may be called perpetual motion, for it is never at rest.

The young reader will naturally ask why the water that rises up from the sea is not salt? To this it may be observed, that salt is too heavy to evaporate or rise in the air, and that nothing but pure water rises up, all the salt being left behind.

A great deal more rain falls in hot than in cold countries; thus, in the West Indies, the rain that falls in the year is seldom less than one hundred and twenty inches deep, and in the East Indies about eighty inches, while in England the average quantity is about thirty inches, and in Norway and Lapland, it does not exceed half that quantity.

More rain falls in the western counties of England than in the eastern; the winds from the west and south west, in their passage over the Atlantic Ocean, draw up great quantities of water, and when the clouds reach the western coast, they are attracted by the hills, and fall in rain, and these clouds, before they reach the

eastern counties, become too light to yield any more rain.

LESSON LX.

THE GENTLEMAN AND BASKETMAKER CONCLUDED.

The nobleman now began to perceive with how little reason he had before valued himself, and despised his fellow creatures, and an occurrence soon after took place, which tended to complete his mortification, for one of the savages had found something like a fillet, with which he adorned his forehead, and seemed to think himself extremely fine.

The basketmaker, perceiving this appearance of vanity, pulled up some reeds, and, sitting down to work, in a short time finished an elegant wreath, which he placed on the head of the first native he chanced to meet.

The man was so pleased with his new acquisition, that he danced with joy, and ran away to seek the rest, who were all struck with astonishment at this new, and elegant piece of finery, and it was not long before another came, making signs that he wanted to be adorned like his companion.

The wreaths were so highly valued by all the inhabitants, that the basketmaker was released from his former drudgery, and constantly employed in weaving them; in return for the pleasure he conferred upon them, the grateful savages brought him the choicest food the country afforded, built him a hut, and showed him great kindness.

But the rich man, who possessed neither talents to *please*, nor strength to labour, was condemned to be the

basketmaker's servant, and to cut him reeds to supply the increasing demand for wreaths; he now lost all idea of his own superiority, and saw clearly that the basketmaker was a much more useful being than himself.

After having passed some months in this manner, they were brought back to their own country by the orders of the magistrate, and commanded to appear before him; when looking sternly at the rich man, he thus addressed him :

"You have now been taught how helpless, contemptible, and feeble a creature you are, and you cannot but be sensible of your inferiority to the man you insulted, and it now remains for me to see that suitable reparation is made for the injuries you have done him.

Did I treat you as you deserve, I should take from you all the riches you possess, as you wantonly deprived this poor man of his whole subsistence, but, hoping you will become more humane for the future, I sentence you to give half your fortune to this man whom you endeavoured to ruin."

Upon this the basketmaker, after thanking the magistrate for his goodness, said:—"I, having been brought up in poverty and accustomed to labour, have no desire to acquire riches, which I should not know how to use; all therefore, that I require of the gentleman is, to put me into the same situation I was in before, and to learn more humanity."

The rich man was astonished at this generosity, and having acquired wisdom in the school of adversity, he not only treated the basketmaker as a friend during the rest of his life, but he employed his riches in relieving the poor, and benefiting his fellow-creatures.

It is still the custom in that country, when any one in a high station in life, so far forgets himself as to treat his inferiors either with injustice, or arrogance, to remark "*he wants a lesson from the basket-maker.*"

LESSON LXI.

COMETS.—ECLIPSES.

Comets are singular bodies that move round the sun, the same as the planets, but in orbits exceedingly elliptical, that is, in their circuit round the sun, they sometimes approach very near him, and at other times their path extends far beyond the limits of the Solar System.

The word comet is derived from the Latin word *co'ma*, a hair, and comets are so called because they are usually accompanied by a shining train, resembling long hair streaming in the wind.

Some of the comets are thought to be solid bodies like the earth, but the greater number of them evidently consist of a kind of transparent vapour, as the fixed stars can be seen through their nu'cleus, or body.

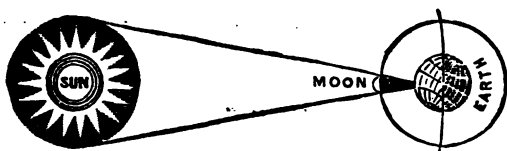
It is not known how many comets belong to the Solar System, but the number is considerable, yet only a few of them can be seen with the naked eye; and there are only three whose times of returning are exactly known; one of these accomplishes its circuit in three years and a half, another in seventy years, and the remaining one in rather less than seven years.

Comets are extremely unlike in their appearance; some have no train, or tail, but are bearded; some have bodies apparently no larger than a star, and long trains, and others have large bright bodies, and small trains.

In former times, the appearance of a comet sometimes created great alarm, but, in the present day, they give rise to no other sensation than that of curiosity, with the educated part of mankind, for it is known they are *subject to the same laws as the other planetary bodies.*

The sun is said to be eclipsed, when the dark body of the moon comes in a direct line between the sun and the earth, and obstructs that light which the latter should receive, and it is called a total eclipse, when no part of the sun's disc, or face, can be seen.

The following diagram will explain the nature of an eclipse of the sun.



The sun is said to be partially eclipsed when only a part of his face is hidden from our view; in a partial eclipse, he sometimes appears like a crescent, and sometimes like a half moon; an annular eclipse is when the moon passes in a direct line between us and the sun, but, from her position, she is not large enough to cover his whole face; the sun's appearance, then, is that of a luminous ring.

This may be illustrated by laying a blackened sixpence upon a sovereign, when the yellow rim of the gold will be a just representation of the sun's appearance, when undergoing an annular eclipse.

An eclipse of the moon is caused by the earth's coming in a direct line between the sun and the moon, when the latter, being made dark by the earth's shadow, cannot be seen by us.

The following figure will explain the nature of an eclipse of the moon.



An eclipse of the moon can only take place when she is at the full, for it is only then that the earth comes in a direct line between the sun and the moon, and the eclipse will be equally visible in every part of the globe where the moon is then shining.

In an eclipse of the moon, the shadow of the earth on her surface is circular, which is another convincing proof that the earth is a globe, or round body, as she is represented to be.

LESSON LXII.

THE ATHEIST AND ACORN.—SAFE POVERTY.—

THE MELODY OF NATURE.

Methinks the world seems oddly made,
And ev'ry thing amiss,
A dull complaining Atheist said,
As stretch'd he lay, beneath the shade,
And instanc'd it in this:—

“Behold,” quoth he, “that mighty thing,
A pumpkin large and round,
Is held but by a little string,
Which upwards cannot make it spring,
Nor bear it from the ground.

While on this oak, an acorn small,
So disproportion'd grows,
That whosoe'er surveys this all,
This universal casual ball,
Its ill contrivance knows.

My better judgment would have hung
The pumpkin on a tree,
And left the acorn slightly strung,
'Mongst things that on the surface sprung,
And weak and feeble be."

No more the cavalier could say,
Nor further faults descry;
For upwards gazing as he lay,
An acorn, loosen'd from its spray,
Fell down upon his eye.

The wounded part with tears ran o'er,
As punish'd for that sin:
Fool! if that bough a pumpkin bore,
Thy whimsies would have work'd no more,
Nor skull have kept them in.

Cooper.

— Safe poverty was ne'er the villain's prey,
At home he lies secure in easy sleep;
No bars his ivy-mantled cottage keep;
No thieves, in dreams, the fancied dagger hold,
And drag him to detect the buried gold;
Nor starts he from his couch, aghast and pale,
When the door murmurs with the hollow gale.
While he, whose iron coffers rust with wealth,
Harbours beneath his roof, deceit and stealth;
Treachery, with lurking pace, frequents his walks,
And close behind him horrid murder stalks.

Who hath not heard, with raptur'd ear,
The lark's shrill matin echoing clear,
While grove and meadow, far and near,
Resound with tuneful melody?

How sweet, how full, the blackbird's note
 Seems on the morning gale to float,
 While many a warbler strains his throat
 To aid the cheerful harmony !

When, at fierce noon, the sun rides high,
 How sweet on river's bank to lie,
 Safe shelter'd from a cloudless sky,
 Some shady tree for canopy !

There listen to the murmuring stream,
 Like one entranc'd in moody dream ;
 There mark, on distant sail, the beam
 Of sunshine glist'ning cheerfully.

And, oh ! what tuneful notes resound,
 What heav'nly music all around,
 When reach'd his daily journey's bound,
 Bright Phœbus sets resplendently !

Is there, whose sensual, grov'ling mind,
 By taste, by virtue unrefin'd,
 Can hear this melody combin'd,
 And not enjoy such minstrelsy ?

Bart n.

LESSON LXIII.

CANUTE REPROVING HIS COURTIER'S.—

EXAGGERATION.

Canute, *the king.*

Oswald and Offa, *courtiers.*

Can. Is it true, my friends, as you have often told me, that I am the greatest of monarchs ?

Offa. It is true, my liege; you are the most powerful of all kings.

Osw. We are all your slaves; we kiss the dust of your feet.

Offa. Not only we, but even the elements, are your slaves; the land obeys you from shore to shore, and the sea obeys you.

Can. Does the sea, with its loud boisterous waves, obey me? will that terrible element be *still* at my bidding?

Offa. Yes, the sea is yours; it was made to bear your ships upon its bosom, and to pour the treasures of the world at your royal feet; it is boisterous to your enemies, but it knows you to be its sovereign.

Can. Is not the tide coming up?

Osw. Yes, my liege, you may perceive the swell already.

Can. Bring me a chair, then; set it here upon the sands.

Offa. Where the tide is coming up, my gracious lord?

Can. Yes, set it just here.

Osw. (aside) I wonder what he is going to do?

Offa. (aside) Surely he is not so silly as to believe us.

Can. O mighty Ocean! thou art my subject; my courtiers tell me so; and it is thy bounden duty to obey me. Thus, then, I stretch my sceptre over thee, and command thee to retire. Roll back thy swelling waves, nor let them presume to wet the feet of me, thy royal master.

Osw. (aside) I believe the sea will pay very little regard to his royal command.

Offa. (aside) See how fast the tide rises.

Osw. (aside) The next wave will come up to the chair; it is a folly to stay; we shall be covered with salt water.

Can. Well, does the sea obey my commands? If it be my subject, it is a very rebellious one; see how it swells, and dashes the angry foam and salt spray over my sacred person! Vile sycophants! did you think I was the dupe of your base lies?—that I believed your abject flattery?

Know, there is but one Being whom the sea will obey. He is sovereign of heaven and earth, King of kings, and Lord of lords. It is only He who can say to the ocean, thus far shalt thou go, but no farther, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed!

A king is but a man, and a man is but a worm. Shall a worm assume the power of the great God, and think the elements will obey him? No! May kings learn to be humble from my example, and courtiers learn truth from your disgrace.—*Evenings at Home.*

A farmer was once told that his turnip field had been robbed, and that the robbery had been committed by a poor inoffensive man, of the name of Palmer, who, many of the people of the villiage said, had taken away *a whole waggon-load of turnips.*

Farmer Brown, much exasperated, by the loss of his turnips, determined to prosecute poor Palmer, with all the severity of the law; with this intention, he went to Molly Saunders, the washerwoman, who had been busy in spreading the report, to know the whole truth.

Molly denied ever having said anything about a waggon-load of turnips,—it was only *a cart-load* that Palmer had taken, and Dame Hodson, the huckster, had told her so, over and over again.

The farmer, hearing this, went to Dame Hodson, who said, that Molly Saunders was always making *things worse than they really were*; that Palmer had

taken only a *wheel-barrowful of turnips*, and that she had her account from Jenkins, the tailor.

Away went the farmer to Jenkins, the tailor, who stoutly denied the account altogether; he had only told Dame Hodson, that Palmer had pulled up *several turnips*, but how many he could not tell, for that he did not see him himself, but he was told it by Tom Slack, the ploughman.

Wondering where this would end, farmer Brown next questioned Tom Slack, who, in his turn, declared that he never said a word about *seeing* Palmer pull up several turnips; he only said, he had *heard say that Palmer had pulled a turnip*, and that Barnes, the barber, was the person who had told him about it.

The farmer, almost out of patience at this account, hurried off to Barnes, the barber, who wondered much that people could find pleasure in spreading idle tales, which had no truth in them; he assured the farmer, that all he had said about the matter, while he took off the beard of Tom Slack, was, that *for aught he knew, Palmer was as likely a man to pull up a turnip as his neighbour*.

LESSON LXIV.

HENRY VIII.—EDWARD VI.—MARY.

Henry VII. was succeeded by his son, HENRY VIII., in the year 1509. Henry, being known to possess good abilities, was, at first, in great favour with the people, but he soon lost their good opinion by his cruel and tyrannical conduct.

If one part of his character be blacker than another,

it is his monstrous injustice and cruelty towards his wives, the mothers of his children, who were to be the future sovereigns of the people; of these, two were beheaded, two were divorced, one died in child-birth, and one, Catharine Parr, survived him.

During this reign, a great change took place in the religious institutions of the country, Henry, throwing off the authority of the Pope, and taking upon himself the title of the Supreme Head of the English Church; this change is usually termed the REFORMATION.

In the latter part of Henry's reign, his sufferings were great; his body became so unwieldy that he could not walk about, and at the same time, he was afflicted with a most painful and incurable ulcer in his leg; death, however, at last put an end to his sufferings, in the fifty-sixth year of his age, having reigned thirty-eight years.

Henry VIII. was succeeded by his only son, EDWARD VI., in the year 1547, when in the tenth year of his age; the Duke of Somerset, a nobleman of great prudence, was appointed protector, and under his authority, a committee of bishops and divines, composed the Book of Common Prayer, nearly as it now exists.

As Edward approached towards manhood, several fatal symptoms of consumption began to appear, and he himself, being sensible of his approaching dissolution, spent much of his time in prayer; he died in the sixteenth year of his age, much regretted by the nation at large.

Edward VI. was succeeded by his eldest sister, MARY, in the year 1553. The Duke of Northumberland, from ambitious motives, placed Lady Jane Grey, *who was married to his son*, on the throne, but after

ten days' reign, she was deposed, the nation, at large, being in favour of Mary, who was undoubtedly next in succession.

Lady Jane, and her husband, Lord Dudley, were tried for high treason, and being convicted, were condemned to die; their lives would probably have been spared, but an insurrection in their favour taking place, they were both beheaded.

Mary was by no means popular when she came into power; being naturally of a morose disposition, and strongly attached to the Roman Catholic religion, she completely lost the favour of such of her subjects as were zealous for the Reformation.

This ill-feeling was much increased by Mary's cruelty to the Protestants, great numbers of whom were burnt at the stake, because they would not subscribe to the Catholic faith; thus, her unbounded zeal for one religion, led her to use cruelties to those professing another, that will ever leave a black stain on her character.

The latter part of Mary's life was far from being happy; she was married to Philip, the eldest son of the King of Spain, and he treated her with contempt; she was sensible that she had lost the affections of her subjects; and she was labouring under a bad state of health.

During her reign, which continued five years, the Roman Catholic religion was again established.—Coaches were first used,—and Glass was first made in England.

LESSON LXV.

COAL.—IRON.

By mineral is meant something dug out of the ground; the most valuable one we possess is coal, which among minerals, may be considered much in the same light as iron among metals—much the most useful.

Coal did not come into general use for fuel, before the reign of Charles I.; previous to that period, wood and peat were chiefly used, and in the present day, the latter still forms the principal article of fuel in Ireland, and many parts of Scotland, and even in some districts of England.

In former times England was very thinly peopled, and a considerable part of the land, that is now cultivated, was then forests, consequently wood was plentiful; but when the country increased in population, it became necessary to clear a great part of the forests for the purpose of raising food, when wood became less plentiful, and coal was introduced as a substitute.

Coal is not only of great use for domestic purposes, but it is the great source of our manufacturing greatness; almost the whole of the machinery* used in manufacturing is kept in motion *by steam*, and without an abundant supply of coal, that could not probably be obtained.

Coal is supposed originally to have been the remains of forests, overturned by some great convulsion of nature, at a very distant period of the world, and brought to their present state by some process of chymistry† operating through countless ages.

* Ma-she-ner-y. † Kim'-is-try.

To procure coal the miners dig very deep holes, called shafts, in the ground, till they meet with the coal bed or seam, when it is obtained in large masses; perhaps the best coal is found in seams of about six feet deep, but in some parts of the country the seams are several yards in depth.

These mines extend miles under ground, but when the distance becomes too great, a new shaft is made; these shafts vary very much in depth; when the seam is near the surface, they are not more than fifteen or twenty yards deep, but the seam in some parts of the country is found at a great depth.

The deepest coal mine known is at Monk'wearmouth, in the county of Durham; it measures five hundred and thirty yards in depth, and what is remarkable, this coal bed has been wrought a considerable distance under the sea.

Coal is obtained in various counties, but especially in those towards the north of England; the coal fields of Durham and Northumberland are wrought more extensively than those of any other counties, because they are well situated for shipping coal to London, and to those places in the south where no coal is procured; these counties also export large quantities to France and various other countries.

Although we export so much coal, and consume an immense quantity at home, yet there is no danger of soon exhausting our stock, it being calculated that the coal beds of Durham and Northumberland, will continue their present supply for considerably more than a thousand years.

The employment of a coal miner is often attended with great danger; where the mines are deep, sometimes, from the want of fresh air, a particular kind of gas accumulates in the mine, and, if exposed to the

flame of a lighted candle, it takes fire, and explodes like gunpowder, destroying all within its reach; in some of these explosions great numbers of the workmen have lost their lives.

Iron, the most useful of all metals, is found in almost every part of the world, but no country is more highly favoured in this respect than Great Britain; the counties in England most noted for iron mines, are Staffordshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, and Yorkshire; Wales is also rich in iron ore, and it abounds in some parts of Scotland.

There are two kinds of iron, namely, forged or malleable, and cast iron, but these are the same article, only differently prepared; the malleable iron is chiefly used in blacksmiths' work; when heated it becomes soft, and may be hammered and formed into any shape.

Cast iron is of a brittle nature, and used by the foundry man, who, after melting it, runs it into moulds formed in fine sand; in this way cannon, stoves, ovens, pipes, and other cast iron articles are made.

Steel is iron refined by a particular process, and extensively used for knives, razors, scissors, axes, and other cutlery, also for ploughshares, some parts of steam engines, carriage springs, watch springs, and numberless other articles which could not be made of any other metal.

The consumption of iron in this country is immense, especially in forming railways, in constructing engines, and the various machines required in our manufactures, and within these late years, it has been much used in forming the hulls of ships instead of wood.

LESSON LXVI

THE TWO BROTHERS.

About the time that so many people went over to South America, with the hope of finding gold and silver, there was a Spaniard, whose name was Pizarro, that had a great inclination to try his fortune like the rest; but having an elder brother, for whom he had a very great affection, he went to him, told him his design, and solicited him earnestly to go, promising him that he should have an equal share of all the riches that he obtained.

The brother, whose name was Alonzo, was a prudent man, and of a contented disposition; he therefore did not much approve of the project, and endeavoured to dissuade Pizarro from it, by setting before him the dangers to which he would expose himself, and the uncertainty of his success.

Finding that all he said was in vain, he agreed to go with him, but told him at the same time, that he wanted no part of the riches that he might obtain, and he would ask no other favour than to have his luggage, and a few servants taken on board the vessel with him.

Pizarro, having sold all that he possessed, bought a vessel, and embarked with several adventurers, who had all great expectations, like himself, of soon becoming rich.

As to Alonzo, he took nothing with him but a few ploughs, harrows, and other farming implements, also a quantity of corn and potatoes, together with some seeds of the different kinds of vegetables then used for food.

After sailing sometime with prosperous winds, they

put into the last port where they were to stop, before coming to the country in which they intended to search for gold. Here Pizarro bought a number of pickaxes, shovels, and other tools for digging, also the necessary conveniences for melting and refining the gold he expected to find.

Alonzo, on the contrary bought only a few sheep, some stout oxen with their harness, and food enough to subsist them till they should arrive at their destination; providence favoured them with a successful voyage, and they all landed in perfect health.

Alonzo then told his brother, that, as he had only come to accompany and serve him, he would stay near the shore with his servants and cattle, while Pizarro and his companions went farther into the country in search of gold, and when they had obtained as much as they desired, he would always be ready to embark with them to Spain.

Pizarro accordingly set out with so great a contempt for his brother's narrow mind, that he could not avoid expressing it to his companions; "I always thought," said he, "that my brother was a man of sense; he bore that character in Spain, but I find that people were strangely mistaken in him.

Here he is going to divert himself with his sheep and oxen, as if he were living quietly upon his farm at home; but we know better what to do with our time; so come along my lads, and if we have but good luck, we shall soon be enriched for the rest of our lives."

To be continued.

LESSON LXVII.

GEOGRAPHY.

The surface of the globe on which we live consists of land and water, about one third being land, and the remaining two thirds water; the land is usually divided into four great portions, called Quarters, namely Europe, Asia, Africa, and America.

Europe is estimated to contain about four millions of square miles, Asia sixteen, Africa eleven, and America fifteen; to every square mile in Europe, we may allow sixty inhabitants, in Asia thirty, in Africa eight, and in America three.

The number of inhabitants existing on the surface of the earth, is supposed to be about nine hundred millions, and of these, perhaps, two sixths may be considered Christians, one sixth Mo-ham'-me-dans, and the remaining part, that is, one half, Pagans, or such as have not the revealed will of God to direct them.

Although Europe is much the smallest of the great divisions of the earth, yet it may be considered the most important, and the most powerful; in it the arts and sciences are cultivated to a much greater extent than in any of the other quarters, and its inhabitants are distinguished for their knowledge, their energy, and their refinement.

Asia is the largest and the most populous of the four quarters, and taken as a whole the most fertile; it was also first peopled, it was the residence of our first parents, and the scene of most of the interesting events mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures.

In Asia is Jerusalem, once the celebrated capital of the Jewish nation, although now an inconsiderable place,

with a population considerably under twenty thousand; it is still much frequented by pilgrims who visit it for the purposes of devotion.

In Asia also is the Chinese Empire, estimated to contain upwards of three hundred millions of inhabitants, or one third of the whole human race; in it is also the famous Great Wall, measuring fifteen hundred miles in length, twenty-five feet in height, and sufficiently broad to allow five men to ride abreast.

This wall was built more than two thousand years ago, to protect the Chinese from the incursions of the Tartars.

The leading features of Africa are its vast deserts of burning sand, the ignorance and uncivilized state of the inhabitants in the interior of the country, and the number, and the savage nature of its wild beasts.

The greater part of Africa lies within the torrid zone; that is, near the equator, and the climate is very hot, especially when the winds acquire additional heat from passing over the burning sands; the climate is therefore, unfavourable for health, and also for civilization.

The immense continent of America was unknown to the rest of the world till the year 1492, when it was discovered by Columbus, a native of Gen'-o-a, a city in Italy; the length of the whole continent is about nine thousand miles, and its average width about two thousand, and it enjoys every variety of climate found on the globe.

The distinguishing features of America are its great extent, the grandeur of its rivers, the height and size of its mountains, the extent of its lakes, some of which might be called inland seas, and the richness of its mines in the precious metals.

LESSON LXVIII.

THE CHAMELEON.—PRINCIPLE PUT TO THE TEST.

Oft has it been my lot to mark
A proud, conceited, talking spark,
With eyes that hardly serv'd at most
To guard their master 'gainst a post;
Yet round the world the blade has been,
To see what ever could be seen;
Returning from his finish'd tour,
Grown ten times pertter than before;
Whatever word you chance to drop,
The travell'd fool your mouth will stop;
"But, if my judgment you'll allow—
I've seen—and sure I ought to know,"—
So begs you'd pay a due submission,
And acquiesce in his decision.

Two travellers of such a cast,
As o'er Arabia's wilds they pass'd,
And on their way, in friendly chat
Now talk'd of this, and then of that,
Discours'd a while, 'mongst other matter,
Of the chameleon's* form and nature;
"A stranger animal," cries one,
"Sure never liv'd beneath the sun!
A lizard's body, lean and long,
A fish's head, a serpent's tongue,
Its foot with tripple claw disjoin'd;
And what a length of tail behind!
How slow its pace! and then its hue—
Who ever saw so fine a blue?

* Ka-me'-le-on.

"Hold there," the other quick replies,
"Tis green,"—I saw it with these eyes,
As late with open mouth it lay,
And warm'd it in the sunny ray;
Stretch'd at its ease, the beast I view'd,
And saw it eat the air for food."

"I've seen it, friend, as well as you;
And must again affirm it blue.
At leisure I the beast survey'd,
Extended in the cooling shade."

"'Tis green, 'tis green, I can assure ye."—
"Green!" cries the other in a fury—
"Why, do you think I've lost my eyes?"
"'Twere no great loss," the friend replies,
"For, if they always serve you thus,
You'll find them but of little use."

So high at last the contest rose,
From words they almost came to blows
When luckily came by a third—
To whom the question they referr'd;
And begg'd he'd tell'em, if he knew,
Whether the thing was green or blue.

"Come," cries the umpire, "cease your po-
The creature's neither one nor t'other;
I caught the animal last night,
And view'd it o'er by candle light;
I mark'd it well—'twas black as jet—
You stare, but I have got it yet,
And can produce it." "Pray then do;
For I am sure the thing is blue."

"And I'll engage that when you've seen
The reptile you'll pronounce him green."

"Well then, at once to ease the doubt,"
Replies the man, "I'll turn him out:
*And when before your eyes I've set him,
If you don't find him black, I'll eat him.*"

He said; then full before their sight,
Produc'd the beast, and lo—'twas white!
Both star'd; the man look'd wondrous wise—
“My children,” the chameleon cries,
(Then first the creature found a tongue,)
“You all are right, and all are wrong:
When next you talk of what you view,
Think others see as well as you:
Nor wonder, if you find that none
Prefers your eye-sight to his own.”

Merrick.

A youngster at school, more sedate than the rest,
Had once his integrity put to the test;
His comrades had plotted an orchard to rob;
And ask'd him to go, and assist in the job.

He was very much shock'd, and answer'd—“Oh no!
What, rob our poor neighbour! I pray you don't go;
Besides the man's poor, his orchard's his bread;
Then think of his children, for they must be fed.”

“You speak very fine; and you look very grave,
But apples we want, and apples we'll have;
If you will go with us, we'll give you a share,
If not, you shall have neither apple nor pear.”

They spoke, and Tom ponder'd,—“I see they, will go;
Poor man! what a pity to injure him so!
Poor man! I would save him his fruit if I could,
But staying behind will do him no good.

If this matter depended alone upon me,
His apples might hang till they dropp'd from the tree;
But since they *will* take them, I think I'll go too,
He will lose none by me, though I get a few.”

His scruples thus silenc'd, Tom felt more at ease,
And went with his comrades the apples to seize;
He blam'd and protested, but join'd in the plan;
He shar'd in the plunder, but pitied the man!

Conscience slumber'd awhile, but soon woke in his breast,
And in language severe the delinquent address'd,
"With such empty and selfish pretenses away!
By your actions you're judg'd, be your speech what it may."
Cowper.

LESSON LXIX.

THE MASTER AND THE SLAVE.

Master. Now, William! what have you to say for this second attempt to run away? Is there any punishment that you do not deserve?

Slave. I well know that nothing I can say will avail. I submit to my fate.

Mast. But are you not a base fellow—a hardened and ungrateful rascal?

Sla. I am a *slave*; that is answer enough.

Mast. I am not content with that answer. I thought I discerned in you some tokens of a mind superior to your condition, and I treated you accordingly; you have been comfortably fed and lodged, not over-worked, and attended with the most humane care when you were sick; and is this the return?

Sla. Since you condescend to talk with me as man to man, I will reply—What have you done—what can you do for me, that will compensate for the liberty which you have taken away?

Mast. I did not take it away; you were a slave when I fairly purchased you.

Sla. Did I give my consent to the purchase?

Mast. You had no consent to give; you had already lost the right of disposing of yourself.

Sla. I had lost the *power*, I grant; but could I lose the right? I was treacherously kidnapped in my own country, when following an honest occupation; I was put in chains, sold to one of your countrymen, carried by force on board his ship, brought hither and exposed to sale like a beast in the market where you bought me.

What step in all this progress of violence and justice can give a *right*? Was it in the villian who stole me? Was it in the slave-merchant who tempted him to do so? or, in you, who encouraged that merchant to bring his cargo of human cattle to cultivate your lands?

Mast. It is ordained by providence that one man should become subservient to another; it ever has been so, and probably ever will; I found the custom, I did not make it.

Sla. The robber who points the pistol to your breast may make the same plea; providence gives him a power over your life and property, as it gives my enemies a power over my liberty; but providence has given me legs to escape with, and what should hinder me from using them?

Mast. Gratitude, I repeat, gratitude! Have I not endeavoured, ever since I possessed you, to alleviate your misfortunes by kind treatment, and does that confer no obligation? Consider how much worse your condition might have been under another master.

Sla. You have done nothing more for me than for your working cattle; are they not well fed and tended? do you work them harder than your slaves? is not your own advantage the rule on which you act in both cases?

You treat both better than some of your neighbours, because you are more prudent and more wealthy.

Mast. You might add, more humane, too.

Sla. Humane! does it deserve the appellation, to keep your fellow men in forced subjection, deprived of all exercise of their free-will, liable to all injuries that your own caprice, or the brutality of your overseers, may heap upon them, and devoted, soul and body, only to your pleasure and emolument?

Can gratitude take place between creatures in such a state, and the tyrant who holds them in it? Look at these limbs—are they not those of a man? think that I have the spirit of a man too.

Mast. But it was my intention to provide for you in your old age.

Sla. Alas! is a life like mine, torn from my country, and my friends, wasted by toil in the burning sun, and spent in the service of a tyrant, worth thinking about for old age? No! the sooner it ends, the sooner I shall obtain that relief for which my soul is panting.

Mast. Is it impossible, then, to hold you by any ties but those of constraint and severity?

Sla. Is it possible to make one, who values freedom, to become a voluntary slave?

Mast. Suppose I were to restore you to your liberty, would you deem that a favour?

Sla. The greatest; for though it would only be undoing a wrong, I know, too well, how few among mankind are capable of sacrificing interest to justice, not to prize the exertion, when it is made.

Mast. I do it then; be free!

Sla. Now I am indeed your servant, though not your slave; and, as the first return I can make for your kindness, I will tell you freely the condition in which you live.

You are surrounded by implacable foes, who long for an opportunity to revenge upon you, and the other planters, all the miseries they have endured; the more generous their natures, the more indignant they feel against that cruel injustice, which has dragged them hither, and doomed them to perpetual servitude.

You can rely on no kindness on your part; you have reduced them to the state of brute beasts, and they have the ferocity of beasts of prey. Superior force alone can give you security; as soon as that fails, you are at the mercy of the merciless. Such is the social bond between the master and the slave.

LESSON LXX.

ELIZABETH.—JAMES I.—CHARLES I.

Mary was succeeded by her sister, ELIZABETH, in the year 1558. Elizabeth's accession to power was hailed with joy by the people, in general, and she gave them no reason to change their opinion, for she governed the nation with great prudence, and endeavoured to improve the condition of her subjects.

On coming into power, the great object of her solicitude was to establish the Protestant religion on a firm basis, and, by her influence, act after act was passed in its favour, so that, in a single session of parliament, that form of religion, which we now enjoy, was established.

During her reign, Philip, of Spain, sent, what he called his Invincible Armada, to invade England, but without success, for his fleet was completely beaten by our brave sailors, and, of the ships that escaped, very

few reached Spain, being entirely dispersed in a violent storm, and a great part of them lost.

Although Elizabeth governed the country with great success, and was popular with her subjects, yet some parts of her conduct nothing can justify, among which may be named, her great injustice to Mary, Queen of Scotland, and her severity, and cruelty to many Roman Catholics, who, from conscientious motives, would not change their faith.

During Elizabeth's reign, which continued forty-four years, the poor laws were first enacted.—Silk stockings first worn.—Potatoes brought from South America.—Paper first made in Kent.—Telescopes were invented,—and newspapers first printed.

Elizabeth was succeeded by JAMES I., of England, but the VI. of Scotland, in the year 1603. James was favourably received by all orders of the state, his title to the crown being undisputed, and the union of the two kingdoms promising to put an end to the wars that had been so injurious to both.

The first remarkable event of James's reign, was the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot, the horrid scheme of a few disaffected persons, to blow up both Houses of Parliament, when the king, the queen, and their eldest son, would be present.

Although James ascended the throne under favourable circumstances, yet he did not retain the good opinion of his subjects, on the contrary, his unbounded attachment to favourites gave great offence; these, he advanced to the highest dignities, and placed in offices of the greatest importance, regardless of their inexperience, and want of capacity.

During his reign, which continued twenty-two years, the Bible was translated in its present form.—The

circulation of the blood was discovered.—The new river was brought to London,—and the Charterhouse school was founded.

James was succeeded by his son, CHARLES I., in the year 1625. Charles was not long on the throne before he was placed in difficulties, for being bent on prosecuting the war on the continent, and the House of Commons refusing to furnish him with the necessary means, he formed the unjustifiable resolution of levying taxes without its consent.

This led to a civil war, between him and the Parliament, which continued six years, deluging the country with blood; in the end, the Parliament was victorious, and Charles, to avoid being taken prisoner, delivered himself up to the Scotch, who, with sordid meanness, agreed to give him up to his enemies, on receiving four hundred thousand pounds.

Charles, after a trial before a tribunal, which assumed a power not sanctioned by the law, was found guilty, and sentenced to death, and soon after beheaded, after an unhappy reign of twenty-three years.

Charles possessed many virtues which would have adorned a private life, but his want of decision and firmness, totally unfitted him for a ruler, and this, with his mistaken notions of kingly power, brought him to this untimely end.

LESSON LXXI.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Knowledge distinguishes civilized from savage life, and renders one man superior to another; its cultivation

in youth promotes virtue, by creating habits of mental discipline, and by implanting a sense of moral obligation.

Necessary knowledge is that which simply provides man with food, and with the means of sustaining life.

Useful knowledge is that which teaches the arts of agriculture, clothing, building, restoring health, preserving social order, maintaining national independence, and rendering the produce of other climates subservient to the wants of our own.

Ornamental knowledge includes subjects of taste and intellect, as drawing, painting, poetry, grammar, geometry, eloquence, history, music, dancing, dramatic representation, and the dead and living languages.

In his unimproved and uncivilized condition, man is naked, without habitation, without means of defence or offence, and possessed of no means of subsistence, besides the wild fruits and spontaneous produce of the earth.

Knowledge creates the difference between savages and the present inhabitants of the British Islands. The useful arts improved by science, and science itself improved by philosophy, confers power on civilized and instructed man, and enables him at once to triumph over his fellows, and over nature.

Till the Romans invaded England, the Britons practised few or no useful arts, painting their bodies of various colours, bestowing partial cultivation on the soil, and depending on the mere products of the climate, and upon their skill and success in hunting and fishing.

The Romans introduced among the Britons all the arts and knowledge which they had themselves received from the Greeks, and laid the foundation of that social state in which we find ourselves in England, after the lapse of nearly two thousand years.

The greatest attainment of savage life is the procuring of fire, and this is done by the rapid friction of two

pieces of wood till they produce flame. Having no metals, they do not possess the simple method of communicating a spark to tinder, by the violent collision of flint and steel.

The clothing of savage nations has reference solely to the inclemency of the weather, and consists generally of the skins of animals, or of the natural products of vegetables that require no preparation.

A precarious mode of subsistence is so unfavourable to the human species, that savage tribes, in a series of ages, do not increase their numbers, and often become extinct.

The first step from savage towards civilized life, is the acquirement, protection, and recognition of property in land; in early ages, this consisted only of what was essential to the immediate wants of men, and land, like air, was the common property of all.

The first property consisted of sheep, goats, and oxen, and the first husbandmen were shepherds, who tended their flocks, and drove them from pasture to pasture. We have a beautiful picture of the pastoral life in the book of Genesis; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were shepherds, or husbandmen, of the earliest ages.

Security of property, is the basis of all social improvement; a man's being able to call a piece of ground his own, and to enjoy its produce and improvement, is an important step in the progress from the savage to the cultivated state.

Enclosures greatly improve the climate of a country, by protecting it from inclement winds, and they pleasantly subdivide the labours of the farmer; in France, and other countries on the continent, the lands still remain unenclosed, in very large open fields, and those countries, in consequence, present a dreary appearance, when compared with England.

Farmers are called *arable farmers*, when they are chiefly employed in raising corn, and *graziers*, when they are engaged in rearing and fattening sheep, and other live stock.

Soils are divided into clayey, loamy, chalky, sandy, gravelly, peaty, moory; the clayey and loamy are called stiff, or strong soils, and the sandy and gravelly, light soils.

On stiff soils, clover, beans, wheat, cabbages, and oats may be cultivated in succession; and on light soils, potatoes, turnips, peas, oats, and barley, may succeed each other; the general rule is *one crop for man, and one for beast*.—*Blair*.

LESSON LXXII.

THE TWO BROTHERS, CONCLUDED.

In their journey into the interior of the country, they endured many hardships; being sometimes scorched by the intense heat of the sun, and then wet to the skin by heavy showers of rain; but this did not prevent their search for gold, and, at length, they were lucky enough to find it in considerable quantities.

This success gave them fresh spirits, and they continued working upon that spot, until all their provisions were consumed, still, however, they persevered in their labours, and sustained themselves upon such roots and fruits as they could find.

At last, even this resource failed them, and, after losing several of their company, by death, arising from hardships, and the want of suitable nourishment, they *determined* to return, and were just able to crawl back

to the place where they had left Alonzo, carrying with them the gold, to acquire which, they had endured so many miseries.

Alonzo, foreseeing what would happen, had employed his time in a very different manner; his skill in husbandry enabled him to select a suitable plot of ground for cultivation, and this he ploughed up, with the oxen he had brought with him, and the assistance of his servants.

Having brought the land into a proper state, he sowed the different seeds he had brought, and planted the potatoes, all of which prospered far beyond his expectations, yielding a most abundant harvest; and each of his sheep had produced him a couple of lambs.

He, and his servants, had also employed their leisure time in fishing, and the fish they caught were all dried and salted, with the salt they had found on the sea-shore; so that, by the time his brother and his companions arrived, he had laid up a considerable quantity of provisions.

Pizarro recounted to his brother all the hardships they had endured, and also acquainted him with the loss of some of his companions from want, and then asked him for some food, for he had tasted nothing for two days.

Alonzo coolly replied, that he never desired to have any share of what they obtained, so they could only have provisions in exchange for their gold.

Pizarro thought his brother very unkind, but as they were all starving, they were obliged to comply with his demands, which were so exorbitant, that in a short time they had parted with all the gold they had brought with them, merely to purchase food.

Alonzo then proposed to embark for Spain, but Pizarro, with an angry look, told him since he had

deprived him of everything which he had gained, and treated him in so unbrotherly a manner, he would sooner perish upon the desert shore, than return with so inhuman a brother.

Alonzo, instead of resenting these reproaches, embraced his brother with great tenderness, and said, "could you believe, my dearest Pizarro, that I really meant to deprive you of the fruits of all your labours? Rather may all the gold in the universe perish, than I should be capable of such behaviour to my dear brother.

I saw the unreasonable desire you had of riches, and wished to correct this fault in you, and serve you at the same time; you have now painfully learned that, from the want of foresight, all the gold you have acquired, would not have prevented you from perishing in the most miserable manner.

You are now, I hope, wiser, therefore take back your riches, which, I trust, you have learned to use in a proper manner." Pizarro was filled with gratitude at his brother's generosity, and acknowledged that he had found out, by experience, that industry and prudence were more valuable than gold.

They embarked for Spain, and arrived in safety; during their voyage, Pizarro often solicited his brother to accept of half of his riches, but he constantly refused, telling him that he could raise food enough to maintain himself, and that he was in no want of gold.

The moral, intended to be conveyed by this tale is, that when we are doing well in our pursuits, it is a great folly to enter into speculations, which, if unsuccessful, would reduce us to poverty; there are two old adages, of a homely kind, which cannot be too strongly impressed upon our minds, namely, "look before you leap," and, "one bird in hand is worth two in the bush."

LESSON LXXIII.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.

A map represents the earth, or a part of it, on a plain or flat surface; a globe shows the whole world in its true figure, that is, on a round surface; the top of a map, if not otherwise expressed, is the north, the bottom south, the right hand is east, and the left west.

The equator is an imaginary line drawn round the middle of the world, from the west to the east, dividing it into two equal parts; that to the north is called the Northern hemisphere, and that to the south, the Southern.

If an orange be cut equally in two, each half will represent a hemisphere; if not affected by local circumstances, the nearer a country lies to the equator, the hotter it is, and on the contrary, the nearer it is to the poles, the colder the climate.

It is also worthy of being remembered, that the days and nights are always of equal length at the equator, and that they become more unequal as we approach the poles.

In the north of Scotland the days are considerably longer in summer, and shorter in winter, than they are in the south of England; this inequality increases till we arrive at the North Pole, where in summer, the sun never sets for six months, and never rises during the same period in winter.

This also is the case at the South Pole; but with this difference, when it is one continuous day at the one place, it is one continuous night at the other.

If I want to know the latitude of a place, that is, its distance from the equator, I look on the side of the map,

where it is marked in degrees; if it be on the north side of the equator, it is called north latitude, if on the south side, it is called south.

If I want to know the longitude of a place, that is, its distance, east or west, from the meridian of Greenwich,* I look at the top or bottom of the map, where it is marked in degrees, except in that of the world, where I shall find it on the equator.

By meridian is meant an imaginary line which passes over a place from north to south; the English always calculate longitude from the meridian of Greenwich, where there is a royal observatory, containing the necessary apparatus for making observations on the heavenly bodies.

Although longitude has no effect on climate, it has a very great one on time, for every degree makes a difference of four minutes, thus, when the clock in London is at twelve, it will want twenty minutes of twelve in a town five degrees, or one hundred and eighty-five miles to the west, and it will be twenty minutes past twelve in a town the same distance to the east.

In sailing round the world, if I go east, I shall gain a day;—if I go west, I shall lose one, and two persons travelling round it, the one going east, and the other west, will find a difference of two days in their calculations when they arrive at the place from which they started.

* Grin'-idge.

LESSON LXXIV.

THE DAME SCHOOLMISTRESS.—THE MILKMAID.—
CHILDHOOD'S SPORTS.

In yonder cot, along whose mould'ring walls,
In many a fold, the mantling woodbine falls,
The village matron kept her little school—
Gentle of heart, yet knowing well to rule;
Staid was the dame, and modest was her mien;
Her garb was coarse, yet whole, and nicely clean;
Her neatly-border'd cap, as lily fair,
Beneath her chin was pinn'd, with decent care,
And pendent ruffles of the whitest lawn,
Of ancient make, her elbows did adorn,
Faint with old age, and dim were grown her eyes,
A pair of spectacles their want supplies;
These does she guard secure in leathern case
From thoughtless wights, in some unweeted* place.
Here first I enter'd, though with toil and pain,
The lowly vestibule† of learning's fane;
Enter'd with pain, yet soon I found the way,
Though sometimes toilsome, many a sweet display.

Much did I grieve, on that ill-fated morn,
When I was first to school reluctant borne;
Severe I thought the dame,—thought oft she tried
To sooth my swelling spirits when I sigh'd,
And oft, when harshly she reprov'd, I wept,
To my lone corner, broken-hearted crept,
And thought of tender home, where anger never kept.
But soon, inur'd to alphabetic toils,—
Alert I met the dame with jocund smiles;

* Unknown. † Porch.

Firm at the form, my task for ever true,
 A little fav'rite rapidly I grew :
 And oft she strok'd my head with fond delight,
 Held me a pattern to the dunce's sight ;
 And as she gave my diligence its praise,
 Talk'd of the honours of my future days.

Kirke White.

A milkmaid, who pois'd a full pail on her head,
 Thus mus'd on her prospects in life, it is said :
 " Let me see—I should think that this milk will procure
 One hundred good eggs, or four score, to be sure.

Well then stop-a-bit—it must not be forgotten,
 Some of these may be broken, and some may be rotten ;
 But if twenty for accident should be detach'd,
 It will leave me just sixty sound eggs to be hatch'd.

Well sixty sound eggs—no, sound chickens I mean :
 Of these some may die—we'll suppose seventeen,
 Seventeen ! not so many—say ten at the most,
 Which will leave fifty chickens to boil or to roast.

But then, there's their barley, how much will they need,
 Why they take but one grain at a time when they feed—
 So that's a mere trifle ; now then, let us see,
 At a fair market price how much money there'll be.

Six shillings a pair—five—four—three-and-six,
 To prevent all mistakes, that low price I will fix :
 Now what will that make ? fifty chickens, I said—
 Fifty times three-and-sixpence—I'll ask brother Ned.

O ! but stop—three-and-sixpence a *pair* I must sell'em ;
 Well, a pair is a couple—now let us tell'em ;
 A couple in fifty will go—(my poor brain !)
 Why just a score times, and five pair will remain.

Twenty-five pair of fowls—now how tiresome it is,
That I can't reckon up such money as this!
Well there's no use in trying, so let's give a guess—
I'll say twenty pounds, and it can be no less.

Twenty pounds, I am certain, will buy me a cow,
Thirty geese, and two turkeys—eight pigs and a sow;
Now if these turn out well, at the end of the year,
I shall fill both my pockets with guineas, 'tis clear."

Forgetting her burden, when this she had said,
The maid superciliously toss'd up her head,
When, alas! for her prospects—her milk-pail descended,
And so all her schemes for the future were ended.

This moral I think may be safely attach'd,—
"Reckon not on your chickens before they are hatch'd."
Jeffreys Taylor.

'Neath yonder elm, that stands upon the moor,
When the clock spoke the hour of labour o'er,
What clam'rous throngs, what happy groups were seen,
In various postures scatt'ring o'er the green!
Some shoot the marble, others join the chase,
Of self-made stag, or run the emulous race;
While others, seated on the dappled grass,
With doleful tales the light wing'd minutes pass.
Well, I remember how, with gesture starch'd,
A band of soldiers, oft with pride we march'd;
For banners, to a tall ash we did bind
Our kerchiefs, flapping to the whistling wind;
And for our warlike arms we sought the mead
And guns and spears we made of brittle reed;
'Then in uncouth array, our feats to crown,
We storm'd some ruin'd pig-sty for a town.

Kirke White.

LESSON LXXV.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND THE ROBBER.—KING
HENRY II. LOST IN A WOOD.

Alex. What! art thou the Thracian robber of whose exploits I have heard so much?

Rob. I am a Thracian and a soldier.

Alex. A soldier! a thief, a plunderer, an assassin, the pest of the country! I could honour thy courage, but I must detest and punish thy crimes.

Rob. What have I done, of which *you* can complain?

Alex. Hast thou not set at defiance my authority; violated the public peace, and passed thy life in injuring the persons and properties of thy fellow subjects?

Rob. Alexander, I am your captive;—I must hear what you please to say, and endure what you please to inflict; but my soul is unconquered, and if I reply at all to your reproaches, I will reply like a free-man.

Alex. Speak freely; far be it from me to take the advantage of my power, to silence those with whom I deign to converse.

Rob. I must then answer your question by another. How have you passed your life?

Alex. Like a hero; ask Fame, and she will tell you. Among the brave, I have been the bravest, among sovereigns the noblest, among conquerors the mightiest.

Rob. And does not Fame speak of me too? was there ever a bolder captain of a more valiant band? was there ever—but I scorn to boast; you yourself know that I have not easily been subdued.

Alex. Still what art thou but a robber,—a base, dishonest robber?

Rob. And what is a conqueror? Have not you, too, gone about the earth like an evil genius, blasting the fair fruits of peace and industry;—plundering, ravaging, killing, without law, without justice, merely to gratify an insatiable lust for dominion?

All that I have done to a single district with a hundred followers, you have done to whole nations with a hundred thousand. If I have stripped individuals, you have ruined kings and princes.

If I have burnt a few hamlets, you have desolated the most flourishing kingdoms and cities of the earth; what is then the difference, but that as you were born a king, and I a private man, you have been able to become a mightier robber than I?

Alex. But if I have taken like a king, I have given like a king; if I have subverted empires, I have founded greater; I have cherished arts, commerce, and philosophy.

Rob. I, too, have freely given to the poor what I have taken from the rich; I have established order and discipline among the most ferocious of mankind, and have stretched out my protecting arm over the oppressed; I know, indeed, little of the philosophy you talk of, but I believe neither you nor I shall ever atone to the world for the mischiefs we have done it.

Alex. Leave me! Take off his chains and use him well. (*Aside*) Are we so much alike? Alexander to a robber?—Let me reflect.—*Evenings at Home.*

No, no, this can be no public road, that's certain. I am lost, quite lost, indeed. Of what advantage is it now to be a king? Night shows me no respect; I cannot see better than another man, nor walk so well.

What is a king? Is he not wiser than another man? Not without his counsellors, I plainly find. Is he not

more powerful? I have often been told so, indeed, but what now can my power command?

Is he not greater and more magnificent? when seated on his throne, and surrounded with nobles and flatterers, perhaps he may think so, but when lost in a wood, alas! what is he but a common man?

His wisdom knows not which is north, and which is south; his power a beggar's dog would bark at, and his greatness, the beggar would not bow to; and yet how often are we puffed up with these false attributes! well, in losing the monarch, I have found the man.

Hark; I heard a gun; some villain sure is near; what were it best to do? Will my majesty protect me? No! Throw majesty aside, then, and let my new found manhood do it.—*Dodsley.*

LESSON LXXVI.

THE COMMONWEALTH.—CHARLES II.—JAMES II.—
WILLIAM AND MARY.

After the death of Charles I., there was for some time an INTERREGNUM, that is, the throne was vacant, no person assuming the regal powers: in appearance, the country was governed by the Parliament, but in reality, by Oliver Cromwell, who was now in great power.

He was the son of a private gentleman of Huntingdon, and entering the army under the Parliament, by prudence and superior abilities, he soon became its chief director, and was afterwards appointed Lord-protector of the Commonwealth, with powers equal to those of the late king.

Cromwell conducted the affairs of the state with great prudence, and materially advanced the interests of the country, but his arbitrary conduct made him disliked by the people in general.

After enjoying power for about five years as Lord-protector, he was attacked by a tertian ague, which soon terminated in death; he appointed his son Richard his successor, but this young man, seeing the dangers and anxieties attending the situation, prudently retired to his paternal estate, to enjoy the comforts of a private life.

Oliver Cromwell was succeeded by CHARLES II., the son of Charles I., in the year 1660. Charles was in Holland at the time he was invited to the throne of his forefathers, and he immediately hastened to London, where he was received with every demonstration of joy.

Charles did not long enjoy his popularity, for he soon began to give himself up to pleasures, and as long as he could find money for that purpose, he was totally indifferent about the affairs of the state.

Frequent disputes took place between him and the parliament, and these appear to have changed his nature; for he became extremely despotic, and at last obtained almost absolute power, and this gave rise to many conspiracies against him.

During his reign, which continued twenty-four years, a dreadful plague visited London, and in the following year the Great Fire took place.—The Habeas Corpus act was passed; by this act no person can be imprisoned without having an opportunity of proving his innocence before a jury,—and tea was first imported from China.

Charles II. was succeeded by his brother JAMES II., in the year 1685. When James came into power, his

ruling wish appears to have been to again introduce the Roman Catholic religion, and with this view, he sent an agent to Rome, to pave the way for the readmission of England into the bosom of the Catholic church.

As the majority of the people were violently opposed to a Roman Catholic government, some of the principal nobility and gentry united in a secret address to William, the Prince of Orange, the grandson of Charles I., wishing him to come over, and aid them in protecting their faith and liberty.

The prince came immediately, and was received with open arms, and thus was brought about, without bloodshed, what is usually called "THE REVOLUTION."

James collected an army for the defence of his crown, but finding that no reliance could be placed on his troops, he abdicated the throne, after reigning nearly four years.

James II. was succeeded by WILLIAM III., and MARY his wife, the daughter of James, in the year 1688. William had not long been settled in power, when James, assisted by the king of France, landed an army in Ireland, and being joined by a great number of Catholics, he took the necessary steps to possess himself of that kingdom.

William immediately went over with an army to oppose him, when the celebrated battle of "The Boyne" took place, in which James was totally defeated, and he thought proper to retire into France, where he ended his days in religious retirement.

William possessed great abilities, and his reign would have been very prosperous, had he confined his attention to the affairs of his own dominions, but the great object of his ambition was to humble the power of France, and *to accomplish this*, he entered into wars, impoverishing

his country, wasting the blood of his subjects, and laying the foundation of the national debt.

During William's reign, which continued thirteen years, the National Debt was first incurred.—The Land Tax first established.—Peter the Great, the Emperor of Russia, worked as a ship carpenter in England.

LESSON LXXVII.

EUROPE.

SWEDEN.—NORWAY.—LAPLAND.

SWEDEN is an extensive country in the north of Europe, and consists of the kingdom of Sweden, Norway, and Lapland; together containing a population of rather more than four millions.

The soil of Sweden is in general poor and unproductive; a great part of the country consisting of mountains, lakes, marshes, and forests; the climate in the northern part is cold, but healthy.

The summers are of short duration, seldom exceeding three months, yet in this limited time, the inhabitants have to prepare the land, sow the seed, and reap the produce, for they are almost strangers to spring and autumn.

In the southern part, the climate is more kindly, and the soil tolerably fruitful; in the valleys they have excellent pasturage, with plenty of horned cattle and sheep.

Sweden produces considerable quantities of copper, iron, and timber, and these, with the addition of hemp and tallow, form their chief exports. Swedish iron has

long been held in high estimation; its superiority over other iron is in part attributed to the using of wood in the process of smelting.

Stockholm, the capital, is a handsome city, built on several rocky islands, connected by wooden bridges, and the scenery around it is beautifully romantic: the other chief towns are Upsal, noted for its excellent University and Botanical Gardens, and Gottenburg, a considerable commercial town, well situated for foreign trade.

The Swedes are a well-made, robust, and cheerful people, and capable of enduring much hardship; they are also hospitable and brave, and possess a taste for literature. The wild animals common to the country, are the bear, the wolf, the otter, the beaver, and the lynx.

NORWAY was united to Sweden in the year 1814; but it may still be considered a distinct kingdom, being governed by its own laws. Norway is, in general, a cold, mountainous, and barren country, but towards the south, there are considerable tracts of fertile land; its chief wealth consists in its mines, its forests, and its fisheries.

The Norwegians are a simple, but a hospitable people; a part of the inhabitants chiefly depend upon fishing and hunting for support, each individual manufacturing his own clothing, tools, and furniture.

Christia'nia, the capital, has an excellent harbour, and carries on a considerable trade; the only other town, of any importance, is Bergen, an ancient seaport.

Not far from the coast of Norway, is the celebrated whirlpool, called the Ma'-el-stroem; the influence of this dangerous vortex is felt at the distance of twelve miles, but if a ship, or a boat, come within three of it,

it is unavoidably drawn in, and shattered to pieces among the rocks.

LAPLAND, the most northerly part of Europe, is a wild and thinly inhabited country, covered with snow to a considerable depth, the greater part of the year.

The Laplanders are dirty in their habits, and anything but prepossessing in their appearance; owing to the excessive coldness of the climate, they are stunted in their growth, seldom exceeding four feet and a half in height.

On the western coast, they live chiefly by fishing, but in the interior of the country, they, for the most part, depend on their herds of rein-deer; the flesh of these useful animals supplies them with food, and their milk with cheese, and their skins serve for clothing; and, in sledges drawn by them, they pass over the snow with great rapidity.

During a few weeks in summer, the sun never sets in Lapland, and, for the same period, in winter, it never rises; yet at this gloomy season, from the clear light of the moon, and the continual brightness of the *Au-ro'-ra Bo-re-a'-lis*, it is sufficiently light for the inhabitants to pursue their usual employments.

LESSON LXXVIII.

THE BLACKBURN FARMER.

About the middle of last century, there resided, near the village* of Blackburn, in Lancashire, a farmer of small means, but of good natural capacity, of a studious

* Blackburn is now a large town.

turn of mind, and endowed with a spirit of perseverance rarely found in his walk of life.

He cultivated a few acres of land, the produce of which sufficed to support his family, whom he accustomed to fare humbly, and labour hard; as for himself, he did not care how hard he worked, nor to what employment he turned his hand, so that it promised a remuneration for his industry.

If it prospered in his hands, and he obtained a suitable return, it was well; if it failed, and he got nothing for his labour, still he extracted experience out of it, and was in a condition to enter on a new experiment with a better chance of success.

This patient, and good humoured selfpossession was inherent in him, and it proved, in the end, a most valuable quality, as we shall see.

He was naturally fond of experiment, and in the long evenings of winter, when farming operations were unavoidably suspended, he was accustomed to exercise his ingenuity, of which he possessed more than an average share, in mechanical contrivances, either for diminishing labour, or for rendering its operations more satisfactory and complete.

At this period, all Lancashire, and the manufacturing districts of the north, were, more or less, excited on the subject of the cotton manufactures; it is no wonder, therefore, that the farmer turned his attention to this branch.

Being struck with the clumsy and tedious process, by which the cotton wool was brought into a state suitable for spinning, he set about contriving a more speedy and satisfactory method of doing the work.

Before long, he was led to the adoption of a cylinder, instead of the common hand-cards then in use; and, in the end, he produced machines of simple constructions,

by which the work of carding was better done, and in much less time.

His success, in this direction, was so decided, that he considered it prudent to give up his farm, and entirely devote himself to the new employment which he had thus created for himself.

The cotton fabrics, then produced, were very different from those with which we are now familiar; they were, in fact, only cotton cloths, either indifferently white, or dyed in such homely colours, as the dyers of that day could impart to them.

Though useful for a variety of domestic purposes, the idea of making them into elegant attire never suggested itself to any one; but now the Blackburn farmer conceived that idea, and resolved to carry it out with all the energy at his command.

To talking, he was not much given, and still less to boasting, and, on this occasion, especially, he shrewdly kept his plans to himself.

Procuring a stout block of wood, ten inches long, by five inches wide, and some two inches thick, he drew on the smooth side the exact representation of a parsley leaf.

He then cut away all the parts of the wood not covered with the drawing, leaving the spray of parsley standing in relief, or, in other words, he made a wood engraving of the leaf, differing in no respect from the wood engravings of the present day, but in the coarseness of the work.

By a number of ingenious processes, he succeeded in covering the surface of a whole piece of cloth with parsley leaves, and thus produced the first piece of printed cotton the world had probably ever seen.

The parsley leaf succeeded so well, that he soon found *himself called on for others of various designs, which he*

also made with his own hands, thus keeping the
to himself, and shutting out rivals in the trade, &
his own ingenuity had created.

To be continued.

LESSON LXXIX.

THE HARE AND MANY FRIENDS.—LESSONS FOR
BIRDS.

Friendship, in truth, is but a name,
Unless to few we stint the flame.
The child, whom many fathers share,
Hath seldom known a father's care.
'Tis thus in friendship; who depend
On many, rarely find a friend.
A hare, who, in a civil way,
Complied with ev'ry thing, like GAY,
Was known by all the bestial train,
Which haunt the wood, or graze the plain.
Her care was, never to offend;
And ev'ry creature was her friend,
As forth she went, at early dawn,
To taste the dew besprinkled lawn,
Behind she hears the hunter's cries,
And from the deep mouth'd thunder flies.
She starts, she stops, she pants for breath;
She hears the near advance of death;
She doubles, to mislead the hound,
And measures back her mazy round,
Till, fainting in the public way,
Half-dead with fear she gasping lay.

What transport in her bosom grew,
When first the horse appear'd in view!

"Let me," she said, "your back ascend,
And own my safety to a friend.

You know my feet betray my flight;
To friendship ev'ry burden's light."

The horse replied, "poor honest puss!
It grieves my heart to see thee thus;
Be comforted, relief is near,
For all your friends are in the rear."

She next the stately bull implor'd;
And thus replied the mighty lord;

"Since ev'ry beast alive can tell
That I sincerely wish you well,
I may without offence, pretend
To take the freedom of a friend,—
To leave you thus might seem unkind;
But see, the goat is just behind."

The goat remark'd her pulse was high,
Her languid head, her heavy eye;
"My back," says she, "may do you harm,
The sheep's at hand, and wool is warm."

The sheep was feeble, and complain'd
His sides a load of wool sustain'd;
Said he was slow, confess'd his fears;
For hounds eat sheep, as well as hares.

She now the trotting calf address'd,
To save from death a friend distress'd.
"Shall I," says he, "of tender age,
In this important care engage?
Older and abler pass'd you by:
How strong are those! how weak am I!
Should I presume to bear you hence,
Those friends of mine might take offence.
Excuse me then; you knew my heart,

But dearest friends, alas! must part,
 How shall we all lament!—Adieu,
 For, see, the hounds are just in view."

Guy.

What is that, mother?

The lark, my child!—

The morn has but just look'd out and smil'd,
 When he starts from his humble grassy nest,
 And is up and away with the dew on his breast,
 And a hymn in his heart, to yon pure bright sphere,
 To warble it out in his Maker's ear.

Ever, my child, be thy morn's first lays,
 Tun'd, like the lark's, to thy Maker's praise.

What is that, mother?

The dove, my son!

And that low sweet voice, like a widow's moan,
 Is flowing out from her gentle breast,
 Constant and pure by that lonely nest,
 As the wave pour'd from some crystal urn,
 For her distant dear one's quick return.

Ever my son, be thou like the dove—
 In friendship, as faithful, as constant in love.

What is that, mother?

The eagle, boy!

Proudly careering his course of joy,
 Firm on his mountain vigour relying,
 Breasting the dark storm, the red bolt defying,
 His wing on the wind, and his eye on the sun,
 He swerves not a hair, but bears onward, right on.

Boy! may the eagle's flight be thine,
 Onward and upward, true to the line.

Doane.

LESSON LXXX.

DENMARK.—RUSSIA.—PRUSSIA.—POLAND.

DENMARK, a small kingdom in the north of Europe, chiefly consists of Zea'land, Fu'nen, and some other islands at the entrance of the Baltic Sea, the penin'sula of Jutland, and the territories of Holstein' and Sleswick adjoining Germany; its population exceeds two millions.

Copenha'gen,* the capital, is a handsome well-fortified city on the east shore of the island of Zealand; containing about one hundred and thirty thousand inhabitants.

Denmark is in general a flat country, abounding in unproductive marshes, and subject to fogs; in some parts, however, the soil is fertile, yielding abundance of pasturage and corn; it has also excellent fisheries.

The Danes, a few centuries ago, were a most warlike people, possessing a degree of courage approaching to ferocity; they are still accounted brave, but happily more inclined to peace and commerce.

Iceland, a considerable island in the North Atlantic Ocean, belongs to Denmark; it is a cold and barren country, abounding in volcanoes, the chief of which is the celebrated mountain Hecla.

Iceland also contains some of the most wonderful objects in nature, namely, hot springs, which throw up jets of boiling water to a considerable height. The population of Iceland is about fifty thousand, and its chief town, Skalholt.

RUSSIA is the most extensive empire in the world, occupying nearly half of Europe, the whole of the

* The *g* is sounded hard, as in get.

northern part of Asia, and a part of North America; its population is about sixty millions.

St. Petersburg, the capital of the whole empire, was founded by Peter the Great; it is situated on the marshy banks of the river Neva, near the Gulf of Finland, and well situated for commerce, but the climate is excessively cold; it contains nearly half a million of inhabitants.

Moscow, the ancient capital, with a population of about three hundred thousand, is pleasantly situated in the heart of the European empire, and is noted for the extent of its inland trade; a considerable part of Moscow was burnt down when France invaded Russia in 1812, but it has since been rebuilt.

The other principal towns of Russia are Ri'ga, a large and wealthy port on the Baltic Sea; Archangel,* a place of great trade on the White Sea, and Odes'sa, a considerable port on the Black Sea.

The winters, in the northern parts of Russia, are excessively cold; the climate in the middle is temperate, and towards the south it becomes hot, producing the finer fruits in perfection.

Russia is, in general, a level country, consisting of extensive plains; its export trade is carried on to a very great extent, especially in furs, hemp, flax, tallow, hides, tar, and wheat.

The wild animals common to the country are bears, wolves, hy-e'-nas, beavers, elks, antelopes, foxes, ermines, and other quadrupeds, yielding valuable furs.

The government of Russia is absolute, that is, the will of the emperor is not under the control of any other power; the nobility, and the upper classes, are, in

* Ark-ain-gel.—The pupil must bear in mind that *arch*, before a vowel, is sounded as if written *ark*,—before a consonant, as if written *artch*, as in archbishop.

general, wealthy, and live in great splendour, but the peasantry are in a state of slavery.

The rivers of Russia are on a grand scale; the principal are the Volga, the largest in Europe, the Don, the Dnieper,* then Diester,† and the Dwina.

PRUSSIA, properly so called, borders upon the Baltic Sea, and is not of great extent, but, including its possessions in Germany, Poland, and other parts, it forms a kingdom of considerable magnitude, and has a population of about sixteen millions.

Berlin', the capital, is a large and handsome city, with a population of nearly three hundred thousand; the other chief towns of Prussia, are Kon'-igs-burg, the capital of ancient Prussia; Dant'zic, famous for its trade in corn, and Mem'el, well known in the timber trade.

The climate of Prussia is, in general, healthy, and the soil fruitful, especially in corn, of which it exports large quantities. Prussia has also made considerable progress in manufacturing goods, for which she finds a ready market in Germany.

The principal rivers of Prussia are the Elbe, and the Weser, which flow into the German Ocean, and the Vistula, the Oder, and the Memel, which empty themselves into the Baltic.

Although the name of POLAND is blotted out from the list of independent states, yet it is still considered as a distinct kingdom; before it was unjustly seized by the neighbouring states, Russia, Prussia, and Austria, it had a population of fourteen millions.

The Poles have, at different times, made a gallant struggle to regain their independence, but being sur-

* Nee'per.

† Nees'ter.

rounded by their enemies, and not assisted by any other power, they did not succeed.

The two principal towns in Poland, are Cra'cow, the ancient, and Warsaw, the present capital; they are both large cities, seated on the river Vistula. Warsaw has a population of one hundred and forty thousand.

LESSON LXXXI.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

We frequently speak of millions, and even of billions, without reflecting on the amazing import of the words; a billion is a million times a million; this is soon written, and spoken in still less time, but not easily counted.

Had our great ancestor, Adam, at the beginning of his existence, begun to count, had continued to do so, and was counting still, he would be very far indeed from accomplishing the task of counting a billion!

To count a billion, at the rate of one hundred a minute, working twelve hours a day, would require nearly forty thousand years, while, if Adam were still living, his age would be short of six thousand.

Fogs are clouds which float on the surface of the earth, and clouds are fogs in the higher regions of the atmosphere. From some elevated places they may be seen moving in the valleys, and from the valleys they may frequently be seen creeping along the sides of the mountains.

The following curious fact of the wonders of the Electric Telegraph, was related by one of the cashiers of the Bank of England: on a certain Saturday evening,

the clerks of the bank could not make their balance come right by a hundred pounds.

This was a serious case in a concern which requires such great accuracy, and a delegation of clerks from each office, spent a considerable part of the night in trying to rectify the mistake, but without any satisfactory result.

On the following morning, one of the clerks felt a suspicion that the mistake, had occurred in packing some boxes of gold, which had been sent to Southampton for shipment, and this suspicion he mentioned to the cashier on the Monday morning.

The suggestion was immediately acted upon; here was a race of lightning against steam! and the steam with forty eight hours start. Instantly the wire asked "whether such a vessel had left the harbour?" "Just weighing anchor," was the answer,—“Stop her!” frantically shouted the Electric Telegraph, and it was done.

“Have upon deck certain boxes, marked so and so, and carefully weigh them;” they were weighed, and one of them was found heavier by just one hundred sovereigns than it ought to be.

“Let her go,” said the mysterious telegraph, and the West India office was debited with just one hundred pounds more, thus the error was corrected without ever looking into the boxes, or delaying the vessel an hour. Now, this is what may be called “doing business.”

Clocks and watches are nothing more than a simple arrangement of wheels of different diameters, and numbers of teeth, so as to indicate seconds, minutes, hours, days, and even moons.

Clocks are set in motion by a weight which turns a cylinder, and this cylinder sets the whole in motion: watches are kept in motion by a coiled spring, which in

seeking to uncoil itself, exerts a power that gives motion to one wheel, which turns all the others.

LESSON LXXXII.

THE BLACKBURN FARMER, CONCLUDED.

The demand for the novel wares of the Blackburn farmer, became so urgent that he could not produce them fast enough for his customers, he had therefore, to impress the services of his whole family—his sons aiding in the printing, and his wife and daughters working early and late in ironing out the printed cloths, after the colouring matter was dry.

The ironing process consumed a great deal of time and although the females bent over their flat irons with unceasing diligence, yet they could not meet the demand, and the orders, that now poured in could not be executed in time.

To overcome this obstacle, the farmer set his wits to work to contrive a machine to supersede the use of the flat irons, and in the end he succeeded.

Instead of ironing his pieces of printed cloth, he now wound them carefully round small wooden rollers which he placed in a smooth bed beneath a heavy box of stones; this box, by means of a rope and a handle was drawn forwards and backwards till the necessary finish was given to the work. This invention was the origin of the mangle used in the present day.

This machine answered its purpose admirably, and by releasing his wife and daughters from the ironing table, increased by so much the producing power of the *family*.

He now worked with redoubled diligence, and the more cottons he printed, the more people wanted them, and as he had taken especial care that no one should become master of his mystery, he retained the trade in his own hands.

As years flowed on, wealth poured in, and the small farmer of the village became the principal of one of the largest, and most prosperous manufacturing houses in the country.

He took his eldest son into partnership, and applying his capital to the production of machinery* to facilitate cotton printing, he succeeded in transferring his patterns from blocks to cylinders, and thus wonderfully shorten the whole process.

In the course of time, the farmer's son became a man of immense wealth and influence, and at a time when the burden of war weighed heavily upon the resources of the country, he raised and equipped a regiment of horse, and presented it to the government, which in gratitude for his generous patriotism, created him a baronet.

This patriotic baronet's eldest son was not brought up to the manufacturing business, but placed under skilful instructors, and when old enough, sent to the university, where he set a noble example of obedience and diligence, displayed abilities of the highest order, and won distinguishing honours.*

This grandson of the Blackburn farmer afterwards obtained a seat in Parliament, where he served his country with great fidelity; after filling some important offices, he became Prime Minister of England, and in that capacity he devoted himself to the welfare of the people, steadily working to extend the freedom of trade, to improve the poor man's lot, and to cheapen his loaf.

* Ma-she'-ner-y.

In this noble cause he signally triumphed, but in the midst of his success, he met with an accident which caused his death, leaving behind him a name and a fame dear to Britain, and honoured throughout the world.

It is perhaps, hardly necessary to add, that the name of the Blackburn farmer, that of the wealthy and patriotic baronet, and that of the champion of free trade, is one, and the same, namely, ROBERT PEEL

Abridged from the Leisure Hour.

LESSON LXXXIII.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

In the early ages of the world, the fathers of families were their governors, and this kind of government was called patriarchal;* the histories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, are beautiful illustrations of this state of human society.

Every man in a society or nation, is bound to respect its welfare, to do nothing injurious to its members, and to conform himself to the rules or laws by which it is held together, maintained, and protected.

In England no man can be tried for any offence unless twelve of a grand jury have declared that there is cause for trying him; and he cannot be convicted or punished, except a verdict has been unanimously given against him by another jury, composed of twelve honest and unexceptionable men.

A man who has committed a crime is charged with it before a magistrate, or justice of peace, who issues his warrant to the constable for his apprehension.

* Pa-tre-ar'-kal.

The magistrate commits him to the custody of the sheriff, in the county gaol, on the oath of the accuser, who, at the assizes must repeat his charge to the grand jury; if they find a true bill, he is tried before the petit jury, and if found guilty, he receives from the judge the sentence of the law.

All property is divided into real and personal; real property consists of lands and their appendages, and other buildings; personal property signifies money, moveables, goods, cattle, and every thing in which the holder has but a temporary interest.

Man is at the head of the animated creation, and unites all the advantages of strength, beauty, and structure, which are but partially possessed by other animals.

His Creator has also endowed him with the faculty of reasoning better than other animals, and with the power and will to adapt the single contrivances of other animals to his own varied wants and luxuries.

Man supports his body erect; and his face turned towards the heavens, displays the dignity of his nature; his soul is painted in his visage, and his majestic and resolute step, announces the nobleness of his rank; his arms and hands were not given him for support, but to second the intentions of his will, and to adapt to his purposes all the gifts of nature.

What animals effect by imitation and natural capability, man effects by invention and by combined power. Birds build their nests, bees frame their cells, and beavers construct their habitations, with convenient, but unvarying uniformity; but the works of man possess every possible variety, and afford evidence of his possessing intellectual powers of superior energy.

The clear complexion of the Europe'an is best adapted to express the passions of the soul, and the health of

the body, in the human family, while the vigour of their understandings, and the energy of their corporeal frames, qualify them to carry all the arts to perfection, and to raise man to that scale of eminence, to which he seems to have been fitted and destined by the Creator.

Blair.

LESSON LXXXIV.

GERMANY.—AUSTRIA.—SWITZERLAND.

GERMANY is an extensive country, lying in the centre of Europe; it is divided into thirty-eight distinct and independent states, which, for common defence, are united under the name of the Germanic Confederation.

In this confederation, each individual state is perfectly independent, as it regards its own internal affairs, but as it respects foreign nations, the whole states form one great body.

The possessions belonging to Austria and Prussia are the most extensive, and these two powers are supposed to have the chief control in the management of the affairs of Germany; the other principal states are the kingdoms of Bavaria, Saxony, Hanover, and Wurtemberg.

The smaller German states may be compared to English counties in extent and population, but each has an independent sovereign, under the title of elector, duke, or prince.

The climate of Germany is, in general, mild and healthy, and the soil fruitful, producing corn and wine in abundance; among the principal cities may be named Munich,* the capital of Bavaria; Leipsic†, celebrated

* Mu'-nik.

† Lip'-sig.

for its fairs; Hamburg, famous for its commerce; and Dresden, the capital of Saxony.

AUSTRIA, with the exception of Russia, is the largest empire in Europe; it consists of Austria, and other German provinces, the kingdoms of Hungary and Bohemia, the northern part of Italy, a part of Poland, and other territories.

The population of the whole of Austria is about thirty-eight millions. Vienna, the capital, is a considerable city, seated on the Danube; it contains some splendid buildings, and a population of between three and four hundred thousand.

The other principal towns of Austria are Prague, the capital of Bohemia; Buda, the capital of Hungary; Trieste, a large commercial town on the Gulf of Venice; and Mil'an and Ven'ice, in Italy.

Austria is rich in minerals, and, taken as a whole, the climate is healthy, and the soil productive; a great part of the surface is mountainous, and, in some districts, is covered with extensive forests; the principal rivers are the Danube, the Inn, the Drave, and the Save.

SWITZERLAND is a small romantic country, lying on the Alps, between Germany, France, and Italy, and the highest inhabited ground in Europe; its population rather exceeds two millions.

Switzerland is divided into twenty-two cantons, each of which is independent, as regards its own affairs, but in national concerns, the whole are united in one body, called the Swiss Conferation. The government is a republic, that is, the people elect their own rulers.

The principal towns of Switzerland are Berne, the capital; Zurich*, a wealthy manufacturing town; and

* Zu'-rik

Gene'va, noted for its rural beauties, and its manufacture of watches.

The scenery of Switzerland is beautifully romantic; it consists of rocky mountains, one rising above another; deep precipices, intermixed with fruitful valleys and delightful streams. The summit of Mount Blanc,* the loftiest mountain of the Alps, and also of Europe, is always covered with snow, and is about three miles above the level of the sea.

LESSON LXXXV.

ANNE.—GEORGE I.—GEORGE II.

William III. was succeeded by ANNE, Mary's sister, in the year 1702. Anne ascended the throne under favourable circumstances; being known to be warm in the Protestant cause, and to possess an amiable disposition, she was popular with the people, and this popularity she retained to the last, for the epithet commonly given to her was that of "Good Queen Anne."

Anne was highly successful in the wars in which she engaged on the continent; the Duke of Marlborough was appointed commander-in-chief, and, under him, the British army obtained some brilliant victories; but it is more than probable that these victories were of no real advantage to the nation.

Anne's reign was favourable to the cause of literature; amongst the many literary characters that flourished in her time, may be named Prior, Pope, Addison, Steele, and Swift.

Her reign was not of long continuance, for she was

* Mong Blawng.

seized with a fit of apoplexy, which terminated fatally, in the forty-ninth year of her age, and in the thirteenth of her reign; during this reign, Scotland was united to England; before that time, the Scotch had their own parliament.—St. Paul's Cathedral was finished, having been thirty-seven years in building.

Anne was succeeded by GEORGE I., Elector of Hanover, in the year 1714. George's accession to power was considered favourable to the interests of the country at large; his mature age, being fifty four, his known prudence and experience, and the general tranquillity of Europe, seemed to promise a peaceable and happy reign.

These expectations were not entirely fulfilled, for he unfortunately attached himself to party, and thus made enemies of many powerful individuals, who would otherwise have been friends.

This led to a rebellion in favour of the Pretender, the son of James II., which commenced in Scotland, and part of the rebel army advanced as far as Preston, but, being attacked by the royalists, the men were obliged to lay down their arms.

George was plain and simple in his address, grave in his deportment, and just and punctual in business; he was suddenly taken ill, when on a journey to Hanover, and died the following day, after a reign of twelve years.

George I. was succeeded by his son, GEORGE II., in the year 1727. George, being a native of Hanover, and having spent the greatest part of his life in that country, was naturally attached to it, and became alarmed at the growing influence of France, which he considered dangerous to its independence.

With the view of crippling that power, he entered into a coalition with some other states, and after nine years' fighting, victory sometimes favouring one party, and sometimes another, a peace was agreed upon, each power restoring all its conquests; this unproductive war added thirty millions to the national debt.

In the year 1745, another rebellion took place, headed by prince Charles, the son of the Pretender, who landed in Scotland, and great numbers flocked to his standard.

After gaining some advantages over the English army in Scotland, he marched his forces into England, but on reaching Derby, not meeting with that support which he expected, he thought it prudent to retrace his steps to Scotland.

The Duke of Cumberland, with a considerable army, was sent in pursuit of Charles, and the two armies at last met at Culloden, near Inverness, when the rebels were completely routed, and Charles with difficulty escaped to France.

George died suddenly from a rupture in the heart, after a reign of thirty-three years; although he embarked in expensive wars without a sufficient cause, yet he ever retained the respect of his subjects, and died sincerely regretted.

LESSON LXXXVI.

THE BIRD'S NEST.—HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY ON DEATH.
—THE SABBATH MORNING.

It wins my admiration
To view the structure of that little work,
A bird's nest, mark it well within, without!—

No tool had he that wrought, no knife to cut,
 No nail to fix, no bodkin to insert,
 No glue to join; his little beak was all—
 And yet how neatly finished! What nice hand,
 With every implement and means of art,
 And twenty years' apprenticeship to boot,
 Could make me such another? Vainly then
 We boast of excellence, whose noblest skill
 Instinctive genius foils. *Hurdis.*

To be, or not to be?—That is the question.—
 Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
 The stings and arrows of outrageous fortune;
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
 And by opposing end them?—To die—to sleep—
 No more: and by a sleep, to say we end
 The heart-ache, and the thousand natural shocks
 That flesh is heir to,—'tis a consummation
 Devoutly to be wished! To die—to sleep—
 To sleep? perchance to dream;—aye, there's the rub;
 For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
 When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
 Must give us pause.—There's the respect
 That makes calamity of so long life;
 For who would bear the whips and scorns o' the time,
 The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
 The pangs of despised love, the law's delay,
 The insolence of office, and the spurns
 That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
 When he himself might his "quietus" make
 With a bare bodkin?—Who would fardels* bear,
 To groan and sweat under a weary life;
 But that the dread of something after death
 (That undiscovered country, from whose bourne

* A fardel; a bundle, a pack, or burden.

No traveller returns) puzzles the will;
 And makes us rather bear the ills we have,
 Than fly to others that we know not of?
 Thus conscience doth make cowards of us all;
 And thus the native hue of resolution
 Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought;
 And enterprises of great pith and moment,
 With this regard, their currents turn awry,
 And lose the name of action. *Shakspeare.*

How still the morning of the hallowed day!
 Mute is the voice of rural labour, hush'd.
 The ploughboy's whistle, and the milkmaid's song;
 The scythe lies glittering in the dewy wreath
 Of tedded* grass, mingled with the fading flowers,
 That yestermorn bloomed waving in the breeze;
 Sounds the most faint attract the ear—the hum
 Of early bee, the rustling of the leaves,
 The distant bleating, midway up the hill.
 To him who wanders o'er the upland leas,†
 The blackbird's note comes mellower from the dale,
 And sweeter from the sky the gladsome lark
 Warbles his heaven-tuned song; the lulling brook
 Murmurs more gently down the deep-worn glen,
 While from yon lowly roof, whose curling smoke
 O'er mounts the mist, is heard at intervals
 The voice of psalms, the simple song of praise.
Grahame.

LESSON LXXXVII.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

Every substance known to man may be divided into

* Grass laid in rows.

† Enclosed grounds.

three kingdoms, namely, the Mineral, the Vegetable, and the Animal. Lin-næ'-us, the celebrated Swedish botanist, thus distinguishes these kingdoms: "Stones *grow*;—vegetables grow and *live*;—animals grow, live, and *feel*.

The existence of all vegetables may be regarded as mechanical,* or as similar to that of an animal when asleep, during which time his functions proceed without consciousness. The mechanism† is, however, most wonderful, and bespeaks the contrivance of an all-wise, and all-powerful Creator.

A seed, which is thrown into the earth by the husbandman, is similar in its construction to the egg of an animal; the earth acts upon it by means as little understood, as that by which the sitting of a hen on an egg, converts it into a chicken.

In a few days, the two ends of the seed open, and from one of them issues a green plant, and from the other a number of fibrous threads, and whatever is the position of the seed, the green sprout struggles through the soil *upward* into the air, and the fibrous shoots strike *downward* into the ground, and there imbibe, or suck in, the nourishment the plant requires.

Nothing is more wonderful than the means nature uses for the preservation of seeds, and the contrivances by which they are distributed.

Some seeds are provided with downy wings, as the dandeli'on; others are swallowed by animals, and voided in distant places; others are blown about by the winds, and preserved by their coverings, till excited into germination, by the heat of the sun's rays, in the following spring.

Each plant has its peculiar habitation; and each adapts the nutriment derived from the same earth so

* Me-kan'-i-cal.

† Mek-a-nism.

differently, that, by a subtle agency, it produces all the degrees of flavour, odour, poison, and nutriment, which we find in various plants.

Plants that only continue one year, and are reproduced from their seed, are called *annual*; those which are produced one year, and flower the next, are termed *biennial*; those which last many years, are called *perennial*.

Plants with roots like those of onions, or tulips, are called *bulbous*; those with roots like turnips or parsnips, are termed *tuberous*; those with the roots like the different grasses, are called *fibrous*.

They are said to be *deciduous*, when their leaves fall in the autumn, and *evergreen*, when they are constantly renewed, as in most resinous trees; they are also said to be *indigenous*,* when they are natural to the country, and *exotic*, when they have been introduced from a foreign climate.

The natural substances found in all vegetables, are *sugar*, in the sugar-cane, beet, carrots, and similar productions; *gum*, or mucilage, which oozes from various trees; *jelly*, procured from many fruits; *turpentine* and *tar* from the pine; *bitters*, from hops and quassia; and *opium* and other *narcotics*, from the milk of poppies and lettuces.

The vegetables of the greatest value to man, are those which produce *gluten* or *starch*, as wheat, barley, potatoes, and beans; *oils* are produced by pressing the seeds or kernels of vegetables, as, olives, almonds, linseed, and rapeseed; *volatile oils* are distilled from peppermint, lavender, and similar productions; and *wax* is collected from flowers by bees.

Resins exude like gum from firs and other trees, and are known as balsams, varnishes, turpentine, tar, and

* In-didg'-e-nus.

pitch ; of this class, also, is *India rubber*, and *gutta percha*, both of which are gums that exude from certain large trees in South America and Asia.—*Blair*.

LESSON LXXXVIII.

FRANCE.—BELGIUM.—HOLLAND.

FRANCE is a compact and populous empire, and, perhaps, with the exception of England, the most powerful state in Europe ; it measures nearly six hundred miles in length, and five hundred in breadth, and contains about thirty-four millions of inhabitants.

Paris, the capital, is the second city in Europe for extent, and probably the first, for the splendour of its public buildings ; it is advantageously situated on the river Seine,* and has a population of about a million.

The other most noted towns are Ly'ons, the second city in France ; Marseilles† and Bordeaux,‡ two large commercial ports ; Rouen,§ famous for its manufactures ; and Brest and Toulon,|| two strong naval ports.

France enjoys one of the finest climates in Europe ; the northern part is favourable to the growth of the necessaries of life, and the southern to that of its luxuries.

It abounds in vineyards, which are supposed to cover five millions of acres, and its wines are much valued ; in the south it produces olives, figs, oranges, prunes, and the other fruits common to warm climates.

The French are a brave, lively, and intelligent people, distinguished for their politeness, and attention to strangers ; they are celebrated for quickness in invention,

* Sayne. † Mar-sailz'. ‡ Bur-do'. § Roo-awng'. || Too-lon'.

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and excel in manufacturing articles of taste; their principal exports are silks, wines, brandy, fruits, and toys.

The principal rivers of France, are the Seine, and the Somme,* which fall into the English Channel; the Rhone, which flows into the Mediterranean, and the Loire, and the Garonne,† which empty themselves into the Bay of Biscay.

BELGIUM, formerly called Flanders, established its independence in 1831, when Leopold, the uncle of the Queen of England, was chosen king; its population is about four millions.

Brussels, the capital, is one of the finest cities in Europe; a few miles to the south of it, is the village of Waterloo, famous for the great battle fought in its neighbourhood, between the English and French, in the year 1815.

The other chief towns are Bru'ges, Ghent, Antwerp, and Ostend'.

The Belgians, formerly called Flemings, are an industrious people, and particularly excel in manufacturing lace, cambrics, and fine lawns, of which they export large quantities.

The climate of Belgium is mild, but moist, the face of the country level, the soil fertile, and in a high state of cultivation.

HOLLAND, sometimes called the Netherlands, is a small commercial kingdom, separated from England by the German Ocean; it is divided into eleven provinces, and contains upwards of three millions of inhabitants.

Amsterdam, the capital, is a large thriving seaport, with a population of about two hundred and twenty

* Sum.

† Ga-ron'.

thousand; the other chief towns are Rotterdam, a place of extensive commerce; the Hague, a beautiful city, and the seat of government; and Leyden, famous for its university.

The climate in the south is mild, but in the north moist and foggy, and, in the winter season, cold, when the canals, with which it abounds, are usually frozen over, and the inhabitants skate along them with great rapidity.

Holland is a flat country, a great part of it lying below the level of the sea, from which it is preserved by immense dikes, or embankments, which are kept in repair at a great expense.

The Dutch are considered a cleanly, frugal, and industrious people, and of domestic habits; their exports are considerable, especially in flax, butter, cheese, and seeds, and they possess several colonies abroad.

LESSON LXXXIX.

THE MOUNTAIN OF MISERIES, OR ADDISON'S DREAM.*

It is a celebrated thought of Soc'-ra-tes, that if all the misfortunes of mankind were cast into a public stock, in order to be equally distributed among the whole species, those who now think themselves the most unhappy, would prefer the share they are already possessed of, before that which would fall to them by such a division.

As I was ruminating on this subject, seated in my elbow chair, I insensibly fell asleep; when, on a sudden,

* Dr. Johnson used to say that this Essay, on the burdens of mankind, was the most exquisite he had ever read.

I thought there was a proclamation made by Jupiter, that every mortal should bring in his griefs and calamities, and throw them together in a heap.

There was a large plain appointed for the purpose; I took my stand in the centre of it, and saw, with a great deal of pleasure, the whole human species marching one after another, and throwing down their several loads, which immediately grew up into a prodigious mountain, that seemed to rise above the clouds.

There was a certain lady of a thin, airy shape, who was very active in this solemnity; she carried a magnifying glass in one of her hands, and was clothed in a loose flowing robe; her name was FANCY, and there was something wild and distracted in her looks.

She led up every mortal to the appointed place, after having very officially assisted him in making up his pack and laying it upon his shoulders.

My heart melted within me, to see my fellow-creatures groaning under their respective burdens, and to consider that prodigious bulk of human calamities which lay before me.

There were, however, several persons who afforded me some amusement on this occasion; I observed one bringing in a burden, very carefully concealed under an old embroidered cloak, which, upon his throwing it into the heap, I discovered to be Poverty; another, after a great deal of puffing, threw down his luggage, which, upon examining, I found to be his wife.

I saw multitudes of old women throw down their wrinkles, and several young ones who stripped themselves of a bad complexion; there were very great heaps of red noses, large lips, and rusty teeth; the truth of it is, I was surprised to see the greatest part of the mountain made up of bodily deformities.

Observing one advancing towards the heap, with a

larger cargo than ordinary upon his back, I found, on his nearer approach, that it was only a natural hump, which he disposed of, with great joy of heart, among this collection of human miseries.

There were likewise diseases of all sorts, though I could not but observe, that there were many more imaginary than real; one little packet I could not but notice, which was a complication of all the disorders incident to human nature, and was in the hands of a great many fine people; this was called the Spleen.

But what, most of all, surprised me, was a remark I made, that there was not a single vice or folly thrown into the whole heap; while I had concluded, within myself, that every one would take this opportunity of getting rid of his passions, prejudices, and frailties.

I took notice, in particular, of a very profligate young man, who I did not question, came loaded with his crimes; but upon searching into his bundle, I found that, instead of throwing his guilt from him, he had only laid down his memory; he was followed by another worthless spendthrift, who flung away his modesty, instead of his ignorance.

When the whole race of mankind had thus cast off their burdens, the phantom, which had been so busy on this occasion, seeing me an idle spectator of what had passed, approached towards me.

I grew uneasy at her presence, when, on a sudden, she held her magnifying glass full before my eyes; I no sooner saw my face in it, but I was startled at the shortness of it, as it now appeared in its utmost aggravation.

The immoderate breadth of the features made me very much out of humour with my countenance, and I threw it from me like a mask; it happened very luckily, that one who stood by me, had just before thrown down *his visage, which it seems was too long for him.*

It was indeed extended to a shameful length; I believe the very chin was, modestly speaking, as long as my whole face. All the contributions being now brought in, every man was at liberty to exchange his misfortune for those of another person, but the result I will communicate hereafter.

To be continued.

LESSON XC.

GEORGE III.—GEORGE IV.

George II. was succeeded by his grandson, GEORGE III. in the year 1760. The first great event in George's reign, was the American war; the British government persisted in levying certain taxes upon the Americans, as a matter of right, without their consent, and, in consequence, they threw off their allegiance to the mother country, and, after a seven years' conflict, succeeded in establishing their independence.

The next great event was the French revolution, in the year 1789, when the king and queen were both beheaded; this gave rise to a general Europe'an war, during which, Napo'leon Bonaparte, who had been elected Emperor of France, humbled every power in Europe, with the exception of Great Britain.

This general war, with a short intermission, continued until the year 1814, when, by the combined exertions of England, and some of the other leading powers, the armies of Napoleon were completely dispersed, his capital was taken, and he himself was obliged to abdicate, and retire to the island of Elba.

Not satisfied with an inactive life on that island, he made his escape with a few followers, and landing in France, he was received with open arms by his old companions, the soldiers, and by the most vigorous exertions, he was soon in a condition to renew the contest.

Then followed the celebrated battle of Waterloo, in which his army was completely defeated, and to avoid being taken prisoner, he fled to the coast, and delivered himself up to an English ship of war.

Napoleon was sent to the island of St. Hele'na, where he was strictly guarded, at the same time receiving every attention due to his exalted rank; he remained there till his death, in the year 1821.

This reign was prolific of great men, among whom may be named the Duke of Wellington in the army; Nelson, Howe, St. Vicent, Duncan, and Rodney in the navy; and Walpole, Pitt, Fox, Burke and Sheridan in the senate.

George's reign continued fifty-nine years, it being the longest recorded in the annals of England; and it is a remarkable fact, that the three *thirds* should be the longest mentioned in English history; Henry III. having reigned fifty-six years, Edward III. fifty, and George III. fifty-nine.

During this reign, Sunday schools were first established.—Ireland was united to Great Britain.—The slave trade was abolished.—Gas was first used for lighting streets and houses.—Steam was first used for impelling ships,—and vaccination was introduced.

George III. was succeeded by his eldest son, George IV. in the year 1820. Soon after George's accession to power, a bill was brought into the House of Lords, to deprive his consort, Queen Caroline, of her title, and

to dissolve the marriage, in consequence of alleged impropriety of conduct while travelling on the continent.

A majority was obtained against her, but it was so small that the bill was abandoned, and those that were friendly to her cause, and those in opposition to the government, testified their joy by a general illumination.

During this reign, the Catholic Relief Bill was passed; for a length of time the Roman Catholics had not enjoyed the same privileges as their Protestant fellow subjects, and this bill was brought in to remove their disabilities.

The bill was passed by a large majority, thus proving that a spirit of liberality was gaining ground, and that the day was coming when all animosity, on account of religious opinions, would die away.

George's reign was peaceful, and generally favourable to his subjects; it only continued ten years, during which time, the first stone of the New London Bridge was laid.—Steam carriages were first used,—and the police force was established.

LESSON XCL

A HYMN OF PRAISE.—KINDNESS.—THE WOODMAN.

Begin, my soul, the exalted lay,
Let each enraptur'd thought obey,
And praise the Almighty's name;
Lo, heav'n and earth and seas and skies,
In one melodious concert rise,
To swell the inspiring theme!

Whate'er a blooming world contains,
That wings the air, that skims the plains,

United praise bestow ;
All creatures sound his awful name
To heav'n aloud ; and roar acclaim,
Ye swelling deeps below.
Ye flocks, that haunt the humble vale,
Ye insects fluttering on the gale,
In mutual concourse rise ;
Crop the gay rose's vermeil bloom,
And waft its spoils, a sweet perfume,
In incense to the skies.
Wake, all ye mounting tribes and sing,
Ye plummy warblers of the spring,
Harmonious anthems raise—
To him who shap'd your finer mould,
Who tipp'd your glitt'ring wings with gold,
And tun'd your voice to praise.
Let man by nobler passions sway'd,
The feeling heart, the judging head,
In heav'nly praise employ ;
Spread his tremendous name around,
Till heav'n's broad arch rings back the sound,
The gen'ral burst of joy.
Ye, whom the charms of grandeur please,
Nurs'd on the downy lap of ease,
Fall prostrate at his throne ;
Ye princes, rulers, all adore ;
Praise Him, ye kings, who makes your pow'r
An image of his own !
Ye fair, by nature form'd to move,
O praise the eternal source of love,
With youth's enliv'ning fire ;
Let age take up the tuneful lay,
Speak his bless'd name, then soar away,
And ask an angel's lyre !

Kindness can woo the lion from his den—
(A moral lesson to the sons of men.)
His mighty heart in silken bonds can draw,
And bend his nature to sweet Pity's law.
Kindness can lure the eagle from her nest,
'Midst sun-beams plac'd, content with man to rest;
Can make the elephant, whose bulk supplies
The warrior-tower, compassionate as wise:
Make the fell tigress (from her chain unbound,
Herself unfed, her craving offspring round,)
Forget the force of hunger and of blood,
Meekly receive from man her long-wish'd food;
Take too the chastisement, and (if 'tis just)
Submissive take it, crouching to the dust.
Kindness can habits, nay, the nature change,
Of all that swim the deep, or forest range;
And for the mild, domestic train, which come,
The dog—the steed—with thee to find a home,
Gladly they serve thee; serve thee better too,
When only happy beings meet their view:
Ah! then, let gentler accents, gentler looks, supply
The thunders of thy voice, the lightnings of thine eye.
Prat

Forth goes the woodman, leaving unconcern'd
The cheerful haunts of men, to wield the axe,
And drive the wedge in yonder forest drear,
From morn till eve his solitary task.
Shaggy, and lean, and shrewd, with pointed ears,
And tail cropp'd short, half luroher and half cur,
His dog attends him. Close behind his heel,
Now creeps he slow; and now with many a frisk
Wide scampering, snatches up the drifted snow
With ivory teeth, or ploughs it with his nose,
Then shakes his powder'd coat, and barks for joy.

Heedless of all his pranks, the sturdy churl
Moves towards the destin'd mark nor stops for aught
But now and then, with pressure of the thumb,
To adjust the fragrant charge of a short pipe,
That fumes beneath him, scenting all the air.

Cowper.

LESSON XCII.

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The UNITED KINGDOM consists of two large islands and a number of smaller ones. GREAT BRITAIN is much the largest island in Europe, and comprises England, Wales, and Scotland.

ENGLAND occupies the southern part of the island of Great Britain, and measures about three hundred and sixty miles in length, and including Wales, averages rather more than two hundred and twenty in width. Its population is about nineteen millions.

Great Britain, of herself, cannot boast of large extent, nor of a great population, yet she may, perhaps, be considered the most powerful nation, not only in Europe, but in the whole world, for it is supposed she rules over an extent of country fifty-times as large as herself, and over a population eight times greater than her own.

She has foreign possessions to a great extent in every quarter of the globe, and the sun never sets on her dominions, that is, when it is setting in one part, it is rising in another; and she is the only nation in Europe that has not been invaded since the time of William the Conqueror, in the year 1066.

The climate of England is variable, but temperate; being surrounded by the sea, we do not experience those extremes of cold and heat common to other countries in the same latitude.

Charles II., in speaking of the climate, remarked "there was no country in Europe in which he could be abroad in the air more hours in the day, and more days in the year, without inconvenience, than in England,"—the remark was perhaps, just.

The soil of England is generally fertile, and is rendered still more so by very superior cultivation; it produces in great abundance all the substantial necessities of life.

London, the capital of the whole British empire, and the largest and richest city in the world, is finely situated on the banks of the Thames, and for the extent of its commerce, and the number and usefulness of its charitable institutions, it stands unrivalled.

The houses of many of the nobility and wealthy are splendid, and the principal commercial streets are lined with elegant shops, fitted up regardless of expense; or the Royal Exchange may be daily seen merchants from every part of the world, dressed in the costumes of their respective countries.

The river Thames, in magnitude and grandeur, is much inferior to many of the European rivers, yet, for the purposes of commerce, it is equalled by few, and perhaps excelled by none.

The other leading commercial ports, are Liverpool, Bristol, Devenport, Hull, Newcastle upon Tyne, Southampton, Sunderland, and Yarmouth; the largest and most important manufacturing towns, are Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Nottingham, Leicester, and Norwich.

WALES, a small principality, lying on the west of

England, is divided into North and South Wales, each containing six counties, with a population of about a million.

North Wales is mountainous, and much admired for its beautiful and romantic scenery; its highest mountains are Snowden and Plynlimmon.

The Welsh are a hospitable people, but not having much intercourse with the world, in the country districts, they are simple and homely in their manners; they however are said to pride themselves on their ancestry.

LESSON XCIII.

SELECT SENTENCES.

The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think—rather to improve our minds so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with the thoughts of other men.

Read not to contradict and refute, but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be digested; that is, some books are to be read only in part; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Reading makes a full man, conversation a ready man, and writing a correct man.—*Lord Bacon.*

Philosophers have puzzled themselves how to define man, so as to distinguish him from other animals. Burke says "Man is an animal that cooks his victuals." Dr. Adam Smith says, "Man is an animal that makes bargains; no other animal does this—one dog does not exchange a bone with another."

In conversation there is speaking well, speaking easily, speaking justly, and speaking seasonably; it is offending against the last, to speak of entertainments to the indigent; of sound limbs and health before the infirm; of houses and lands before one who has not so much as a dwelling; in a word, to speak of your prosperity before the miserable, is thoughtless and cruel.

The mind has a certain vegetative power which cannot be wholly idle; if it be not laid out and cultivated into a beautiful garden, it will of itself shoot up in weeds, or flowers of a wild growth.

There is nothing of which men are more liberal than their good advice, be their stock of it ever so small, because it seems to carry in it an intimation of their own influence, importance, or worth.

In early life we are apt to believe all men honest till we find them the contrary; in later life, we, perhaps, become too suspicious of their principles; thus, in our journey through life we pass from one extreme to the other; at first we think too well of human nature, and at last perhaps, too ill of it.

It is to labour, and to labour only, that man owes everything possessed of exchangeable value; labour is the tal'isman which has raised him from the condition of the savage; that has changed the desert and the forest into cultivated fields; that has covered the earth with cities, and the ocean with ships; that has given us plenty, comfort, and elegance; instead of want, misery, and barbarism.

The Chinese Emperor Tchou set out on a journey to visit the vast provinces of his empire, accompanied by his eldest son. One day he stopped his carriage in the midst of some fields where the people were hard at work.

"I took you with me," said he to his son, "that you

might be an eye-witness of the painful toils of the poor husbandmen, and that the feeling, their laborious station should excite in your heart, might prevent your burdening them with taxes."

The common fluency of speech in many men, and in most women, is owing to a scarcity of matter, and a scarcity of words; for whoever is a master of language, and has a mind full of ideas, will be apt in speaking to hesitate upon the choice of both.

Whereas common speakers have only one set of ideas, and one set of words to clothe them in, and these are always ready for the tongue; thus, people come faster out of the church when it is almost empty, then when a crowd is at the door.

We ought always to deal justly, not only with those that are just to us, but likewise with those that endeavour to injure us; and this also, for fear lest by rendering them evil for evil, we should fall into the same vice; so we ought likewise to have friendship, that is to say, humanity and good-will, for all who are of the same nature with us.

Thinking leads a man to knowledge; he may see and hear, and read and learn, whatever he pleases, and as much as he pleases; he never will know any thing of it, except that which he has thought over, that which by thinking he has made the property of his mind; it is then not saying too much, if I say, that man by thinking only, becomes truly man.

Though wit is the most captivating, yet it is the most dreaded of all talents; the most dangerous to those who have it, and the most feared by those who have it not; he who has grown rich without it, shuns it as a disease, and looks upon poverty as its invariable companion.

LESSON XCIV.

THE MOUNTAIN OF MISERIES, CONCLUDED.

In my former paper, I gave the reader a sight of that mountain of miseries which was made of those several calamities that afflict the minds of men.

As we were regarding very attentively this confusion of miseries, this chaos* of calamity, Jupiter issued a second proclamation, that every one was now at liberty to exchange his affliction, and return to his habitation with any such other bundle as should be delivered to him.

Upon this, Fancy began again to bestir herself, and, parcelling out the whole heap with incredible activity, recommended to every one his particular packet. The hurry and confusion at this time, cannot be expressed. Some observations however that I made, I will communicate to the public.

A venerable grey-headed gentleman, who had laid down the spasms, and, who, I found, wanted an heir to his estate, snatched up an undutiful son, that had been thrown into the heap by an angry father.

The graceless youth, in less than an hour, was pulling his new father by the beard, and threatening to take his life, so that meeting the true father he begged him to take his son again, and give him back his complaint; but they were incapable, either of them, to recede from the choice they had made.

A poor galley slave, who had thrown down his chains, took up the gout in their place, but he made such wry faces, that one might easily perceive he was no great gainer by the bargain; it was pleasant enough to see

* Ka'-oa.

the several exchanges that were made, for sickness against poverty, hunger for want of appetite, and care against pain.

The ladies were very busy among themselves in bartering for features; one was exchanging a lock of grey hairs for a carbuncle; another was making over a short waist for a pair of round shoulders, and a third was offering a plain face for a doubtful reputation.

But on all these occasions, there was not one of them who did not think the new blemish, as soon as she had it in her possession, much more disagreeable than the old one.

I could not avoid pitying the poor humpbacked gentleman, mentioned before, who went off a well shaped person in exchange for the gravel; nor the fine gentleman who had made this bargain with him, that limped through a whole assembly of ladies who had been accustomed to admire him, with a pair of shoulders peeping over his head.

I must not omit my own particular adventure; my friend with the long visage, had no sooner taken upon him my short face, than he made so curious an appearance, that as I looked upon him, I could not forbear laughing at myself, insomuch that I put my own face out of countenance.

The poor gentleman was so sensible of the ridicule, that I found he was ashamed of what he had done; on the other side, I found that I had no great reason to triumph, for as I tried to touch my forehead, I only reached my upper lip; besides, as my nose was exceedingly prominent, I gave it two or three unlucky blows, as I was playing my hand about my face, and aiming at some other part of it.

I saw other two gentlemen by me who were in the same ridiculous circumstances; they had made a foolish

exchange between a pair of thick bandy legs, and two long trap sticks that had no calves to them.

One of these looked like a man walking upon stilts, and was so lifted up into the air, above his ordinary height, that his head turned round with it; while the other made such awkward circles as he attempted to walk, that he hardly knew how to move forward upon his new supporters.

Observing him to be a pleasant kind of gentleman, I stuck my cane in the ground, and told him I would lay him a bottle of wine, that he did not march up to it, on a line that I drew for him, in a quarter of an hour,

The heap was at last distributed among the two sexes, who presented a most piteous appearance, as they wandered up and down under the pressure of their several burdens; the whole plain was filled with murmurs and complaints, groans and lamentations,

Jupiter, at length, taking compassion on the poor mortals, ordered them a second time to lay down their loads, with the design of giving every one his own again; they discharged themselves with a great deal of pleasure, after which, the phantom who had led them into such gross delusions, was commanded to disappear.

There was sent in her place a goddess of quite a different figure; her motions were steady and composed, and her aspect serious but cheerful; she every now and then cast up her eyes towards heaven, and fixed them upon Jupiter; her name was PATIENCE.

She had no sooner placed herself by the Mount of Sorrows, but, what I thought very remarkable, the whole heap sunk to such a degree, that it did not appear a third part so large as it was before.

She afterwards returned every man his own proper calamity, teaching him how to bear it in the most convenient manner; he marched off with it contentedly,

being very well pleased that he had not been left to his own choice, as to the kind of evils which fell to his lot.

Besides the moral to be drawn out of this vision, I learned from it never to repine at my own misfortunes, nor to envy the happiness of another, since it is impossible for any man to form a right judgment of his neighbour's sufferings.

For which reason also, I have determined never to think too lightly of another's complaints, but to regard the sorrows of my fellow creatures with sentiments of humanity and compassion.

LESSON XCV.

SCOTLAND.—IRELAND.

SCOTLAND, the northern part of the island of Great Britain, is separated from England by the Solway Firth, the Cheviot hills, and the river Tweed, and divided into thirty-three counties.

The highlands of Scotland, that is, the northern parts, are in general mountainous and barren, and the climate cold and moist; towards the south it is much milder, and in some districts the soil is fruitful, and in a high state of cultivation.

The middle parts of Scotland afford excellent pasturage for rearing sheep and black cattle, great numbers of which are annually sold to be fattened in the rich pastures of England.

Edinburgh, the capital, sometimes called "the modern Athens," is a handsome city, and it has long been distinguished as the seat of science and learning; its population is about one hundred and fifty thousand.

Glasgow, on the Clyde, is a large and wealthy city; it ranks next to Manchester in manufacturing greatness; its staple article is cotton, but it also manufactures silks, linens, lawns, threads, and other small wares, in large quantities.

The other chief towns are Paisley, celebrated for its handsome shawls; Aberdeen, a commercial port, on the Dee; Dundee, on the Firth of Tay; and Greenock, a most flourishing port, on the Firth of Clyde.

Scotland contains nearly three millions of inhabitants. The Scotch are a temperate, hardy, moral, and persevering people; the blessings of education are widely diffused among the humbler classes, and crime does not exist in so great a degree as in its sister kingdom, England.

IRELAND is a considerable island, separated from England and Wales by the Irish Sea, and St. George's Channel; it is divided into four provinces, namely Ulster, in the north; Leinster, in the east; Munster, in the south; and Connaught, in the west; and these are subdivided into thirty-two counties.

The climate of Ireland is, in general, warmer than that of England, and more inclined to moisture; to these two circumstances may be attributed the perpetual greenness of its fields, which has given it the name of the Emerald, or Green Isle.

A considerable part of the soil of Ireland is very fertile, and where well cultivated, highly productive; other parts abound in extensive bogs, and barren tracts, which would not probably pay for cultivation.

Dublin, its capital, seated on the Liffey, is a handsome city, containing about three hundred thousand inhabitants; its commodious bay, and the beautiful scenery of the surrounding country, are justly admired.

Cork, the second city of Ireland, possesses a fine harbour, called the Cove of Cork, and is largely engaged in commerce; Belfast is, perhaps, the most thriving, and commercial town in the country, and the seat of several manufactories.

Limerick is a large and populous town, seated on the noble river Shannon, and has a considerable export trade; Waterford is a considerable port on the south of Ireland, chiefly engaged in exporting the productions of the country.

Ireland was united to England in the year 1801, and it sends twenty-eight peers to the House of Lords, and one hundred and five members to the House of Commons; it is governed by a viceroy, or lord lieutenant, appointed by the British government.

The Irish are considered a hardy, brave, and kind-hearted people, and the higher classes are hospitable, liberal, and polite.

LESSON XCVI.

WILLIAM IV.—QUEEN VICTORIA.

George IV. was succeeded by his brother, the Duke of Clarence, under the title of WILLIAM IV., in the year 1830. William was in great favour with the people, when he ascended the throne, and his affability, his benevolence, and his constant zeal to promote the interests of his subjects, made him popular to the end of his reign.

During William's reign, a most important bill was passed, usually known by the name of "The Reform Bill;" by this bill, the privilege of sending members of

Parliament, was taken from many small unimportant places, and conferred on large towns, such as Manchester, Birmingham, and Nottingham, which had not been previously represented.

This bill met with great opposition, especially in the House of Lords, but, at last, seeing the sense of the country so decidedly in its favour, the opposition was withdrawn, and it became the law of the land.

William coming to the throne at an advanced period of life, his reign only continued seven years, when he died, purely from the decay of nature, in the seventy-second year of his age.

During his reign, New London Bridge was opened.— Both Houses of Parliament, and the Royal Exchange, were destroyed by fire.

William IV. was succeeded by QUEEN VICTORIA, the only child of Edward, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of George III., in the year 1837. Soon after coming into power, Her Majesty married His Royal Highness, Prince Albert, the second son of the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha, one of the independent states of Germany.

The Prince Consort stands deservedly high in the estimation of the country at large; he has endeared himself to the people by his virtues, and, more especially, by his disinterested exertions to promote the welfare of the humbler classes, his name being intimately associated with most of the public, and benevolent institutions of the age.

The QUEEN'S reign was peaceful, as it regards Europe, till the year 1854, when the Czar of Russia invaded Turkey, without any provocation, with the view, it is supposed, of annexing that country to his own overgrown empire.

England, France, and Sardinia combined to put a stop to the ambitious career of Russia, and each sent a considerable army to the assistance of Turkey, and after some sanguinary conflicts, in which the Russians were invariably defeated, the allies succeeded in taking Sebastopol, the strong-hold of the Czar's possessions, bordering on the Black Sea.

The losses of Russia had been so great that she was glad to accept of peace on the terms dictated by the allies.

During the present reign the postage of a letter has been reduced to a penny.—The Thames Tunnel has been opened.—The New Royal Exchange, and the New Houses of Parliament, have been completed,—and the Electric Telegraph has been brought into general use.

Her Majesty ascended the throne in the nineteenth year of her age, and she has ever since enjoyed the respect and affections of her people in a very high degree, and that she may have a long and happy reign, is the ardent wish of all.

LESSON XCVII.

INDIA.—ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCH-YARD, ABRIDGED.

Where sacred Ganges pours along the plain,
And Indus rolls to swell the eastern main,
What awful scenes, the curious mind delight,
What wonders burst upon the dazzled sight!
There giant palms lift high their tufted heads,
The plantain wide his graceful foliage spreads.

Wild in the woods the active monkey springs,
 The chatt'ring parrot claps his painted wings;
 'Mid tall bamboos lies hid the deadly snake,
 The tiger crouches in the tangled brake;
 The spotted axis bounds in fear away,
 The leopard darts on his defenceless prey.
 'Mid reedy pools and ancient forests rude,
 Cool, peaceful, haunts of awful solitude!
 The huge rhinoceros rends the crashing boughs,
 And stately elephants untroubled browse.
 Two tyrant seasons rule the wide domain,
 Scorch with dry heat, or drench with floods of rain;
 Now, feverish herds rush madd'ning o'er the plains,
 And cool, in shady streams, their throbbing veins;
 The birds drop lifeless from the silent spray,
 And nature faints beneath the fiery day;
 Then bursts the deluge on the sinking shore,
 And teeming plenty empties all her store.

Aikin.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
 The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,
 The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
 And leaves the world to darkness and to me.
 Beneath those rugged elms, that yew tree's shade,
 Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap,
 Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
 The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.
 For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn,
 Or busy housewife ply her evening care;
 Nor children run to lisp their sire's return,
 Or climb his knees the envied kiss to share.
Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield;
Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke,

How jocund did they drive their teams afield !

How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke.

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,

Their homely joys, and destiny obscure ;

Nor grandeur hear, with a disdainful smile

The short and simple annals of the poor.

Can storied urn, or animated bust,

Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath ?

Can honour's voice provoke the silent dust,

Or flattery sooth the dull cold ear of death.

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid

Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire :

Hands, that the rod of empire might have sway'd,

Or wak'd to ecstasy the living lyre.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene,

The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear :

Full many a flow'r is born to blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast,

The little tyrant of his fields withstood :

Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest :

Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood.

Th' applause of list'ning senates to command,

The threats of pain and ruin to despise,

To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,

And read their history in a nation's eyes.

Their lot forbade : nor circumscrib'd alone

Their growing virtues : but their crimes confin'd,

Forbade to wade through slaughter to a throne,

And shut the gates of mercy on mankind.

Far from the madd'ning crowd's ignoble strife,

Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray ;

Along the cool sequester'd vale of life,
 They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

Yet e'en those bones from insult to protect,
 Some frail memorial still erected nigh,
 With uncouth rhymes, and shapeless sculpture deck'd,
 Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.

Their name, their years, spelt by the unlettered muse,
 The place of fame and elegy supply;
 And many a holy text around she strews,
 That teach the rustic moralist to die.

Gray.

LESSON XCVIII

SPAIN.—PORTUGAL.—ITALY.—TURKEY.—GREECE.

SPAIN is an extensive kingdom on the west of France, from which it is separated by the Pyr-e-nees, and has a population of about fourteen millions; the face of the country is inclined to be mountainous, and the climate varies in a great degree.

In the southern provinces, the soil is very fertile, producing wheat and the finer fruits in great abundance, but the country is, in general, very indifferently cultivated.

Madrid, the capital, has a gloomy appearance, and is remarkable for nothing but its magnificent royal palace, and the number of its churches; the other chief towns, are Barcelo'na, Cad'iz, Sev'ille, Mal'aga, and Salaman'ca.

The Spaniards are a stately, grave people; the upper classes possessing a high sense of honour; they are *however*, considered indolent and revengeful; their religion is the Roman Catholic, and no other is tolerated.

PORTUGAL is a small kingdom, lying on the west of Spain, and the most westerly country in Europe: its climate is pure and mild, but its soil is not, in general, so fruitful as that of Spain: it produces great quantities of oranges, lemons, grapes, and similar fruits.

Lisbon, the capital, is a well built city, advantageously situated on the Tagus, and one of the finest ports in Europe: the other chief town is Oporto, celebrated for its strong wine, called port, of which it sends great quantities to England.

The Portuguese bear a resemblance to the Spaniards, but they are neither so tall, nor so well made, and they appear to have lost that enterprising spirit which distinguished their forefathers: the peasantry are for the most part, ignorant, superstitious, and in a degraded state.

ITALY, once the most powerful country on the globe, is now divided into ten distinct states, each subject to a different sovereign: the principal are those belonging to the Pope, the King of Naples, the King of Sardinia, and the Emperor of Austria.

Rome, the capital of the Pope's territories, and once the capital of the whole Roman empire, is still a magnificent city, and deservedly celebrated for its splendid buildings, and noble ruins.

St. Peter's church, at Rome, is, perhaps, the most beautiful building in the world; in Rome is also the Vatican, or palace of the Pope, containing four thousand apartments.

Italy is inclined to be mountainous, and is noted for its delightful scenery; its soil is rich, and produces abundantly most of the luxuries of life; its climate is fine, but the heat in summer is sometimes oppressive.

The Italians are considered a prudent, polite people,

well proportioned in their persons, and with considerable expression in their countenances; they excel in the fine arts, but especially in painting and music.

TURKEY is a large empire, lying partly in Europe, and partly in Asia; Europe'an Turkey, taken as a whole, may be considered mountainous, but it is agreeably diversified with beautiful valleys, and fertile plains, producing the finer fruits in great perfection.

Constantinople, the capital of the whole of Turkey, is a large city, beautifully situated between the Black and the Marmora Seas, and contains some magnificent buildings, but the houses are in general low, and indifferently built, and the streets are narrow and dirty.

The Turks are a well-made, handsome people, but considered haughty and cruel; they are indolent in their habits, and spend much of their time in smoking; viewing the arts and sciences, with an indifference bordering on contempt.

GREECE, in ancient times, the seat of learning and of the arts and sciences, is a penin'sula on the south of Turkey, with a population of about a million.

For a long period, Greece constituted a part of the Turkish empire, but in the year 1827, it was formed into an independent kingdom, under the protection of England, France, and Russia.

Athens, the capital, once the admiration of the world, and the birth place of illustrious orators, statesmen, and warriors, is now only attractive on account of the noble ruins of its ancient and splendid buildings.

LESSON XCIX.

I LIVE NOT ALONE FOR MYSELF.—UNCLE TOBY.—
GOOD AND BAD FORTUNE.—MISCELLANEOUS
INFORMATION.

"I live not alone for myself," said a beautiful flower one fair morning, as it lifted to the sun its crest, sparkling with dew drops; "I live not alone for myself; mortals come and gaze on me, and breathe my fragrance, and go away better then they came.

I minister to their perceptions of the beautiful; I give to the bee his honey, and to the insect his food; I help to clothe the earth in beauty."

"I live not alone for myself," said a wide spreading tree; "I give a happy home to a hundred living beings; I grant support to the living tendrils of the vine; I absorb the noxious vapours in the air; I spread a welcome shadow for man and beast: and I too help to make the earth beautiful."

"I live not alone for myself," said a laughing mountain streamlet; "I know that my tribute to the ocean is small, but still I am hastening to carry it there, and I try to do all the good I can on the way; the tree and the flower love my banks, for I give them life and nourishment, and even the grass, which feels my influence, has a greener hue.

The minnows find life and happiness in my waters, though I glide onward only a silver thread; and men and animals seek my brink to assuage their thirst, and enjoy the shadow of the trees which I nourish; I live not alone for myself."

"I live not alone for myself," said a bright hued bird, as he soared upward in the air; "my songs are a

blessing to man; I have seen the poor man sad and despondent, as he went home from his daily work; for he knew not how to obtain food for his little ones.

Then I tuned one of my sweetest lays for his ear, and he looked upward, saying, 'Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet my heavenly Father feedeth them. Am not I better than they?' and the look of gloom changed to one of cheerfulness and hope."

"I live not alone for myself," should be the language of every thinking, reflecting, mind. It is the language of duty, guiding to the only paths of happiness on earth, and preparing the soul for unalloyed bliss throughout the measureless enduring of eternity.—*Christian Mirror*.

My uncle Toby was a man patient under injuries; not from the want of courage, where just occasion presented, or called it forth, and I know no man under whose arm I would sooner have taken shelter; nor did this arise from any insensibility, or obtuseness of his intellectual parts.

He was of a peaceful, placid, nature; no jarring element in it, all was mixed up so kindly with him; my uncle Toby had scarce a heart to retaliate upon a fly; "Go," says he, one day at dinner, to an overgrown one, which had buzzed about his nose, and tormented him cruelly all dinner time, and which, after a great many attempts, he had caught at last as it flew by him.

"I'll not hurt thee," says my uncle Toby, rising from his chair, and going across the room, with the fly in his hand, "I'll not hurt a hair of thy head! go," says he, lifting up the sash, and opening his hand as he spoke, to let it escape; "go, poor insect—get thee gone, why should I hurt thee? The world surely is wide enough to hold me and thee."—*Sterne*.

To show that good or bad fortune is just as it is felt, we need only resume the consideration of master and servant; for masters, in general, appear no happier than their servants. We are not to look for contentment in palaces alone, for we shall oftener find it in cottages.

I one day visited two particular persons; the first was the master of an elegant house, and a beautiful garden; I asked him if he expected a fine show of tulips this season? he answered, he could say nothing about his garden, as he seldom visited it.

The second person I called to see was in a small dark room, which I considered anything but comfortable and convenient; he told me how still and quiet his chamber was; that, from its situation, he enjoyed much of the sun in summer, and was protected from the winter blasts.

Among other things, he showed me his pleasure garden, which consisted of a few flower pots, ranged on the outside of the window, and then asked me what I thought of his habitation.

I assured him I was just come from a gentleman of fortune, who did not enjoy so many conveniences; indeed the conviction of my mind was, that a gentleman may be poor in the midst of plenty, for to be discontented with riches, is accumulated poverty.

Birds of prey are known by their powerful hooked bills and talons, by which they are enabled to kill other birds, and also small quadrupeds and reptiles; they are divided into *two* families, the first of which seek their food by day, as the eagle, the vulture, the hawk, and the kite.

The *second* family consists of the different kinds of owls, which seek their food by night; their eyes are large, and directed forwards, instead of sideways, like

other birds; their feathers are also covered with a fine down, that in flying they make little or no noise, and are thus enabled to pounce upon mice, and other prey, without exciting alarm.

Parliament is the grand assembly of the three states of this kingdom, summoned together by the authority of the sovereign, to consider of matters relating to the public welfare, and particularly to enact and repeal laws.

There are four elements called *imponderable*, that is, having no perceptible weight, which exert great influence in the conformation of bodies;—they are light, heat, electricity, and magnetism.

Excess, either in eating or drinking,—exposure to intense cold or heat,—want of cleanliness,—vice,—impure air, and many other causes, by hindering the regular and healthy action of various organs, occasion disease and premature death.

THE END.

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